

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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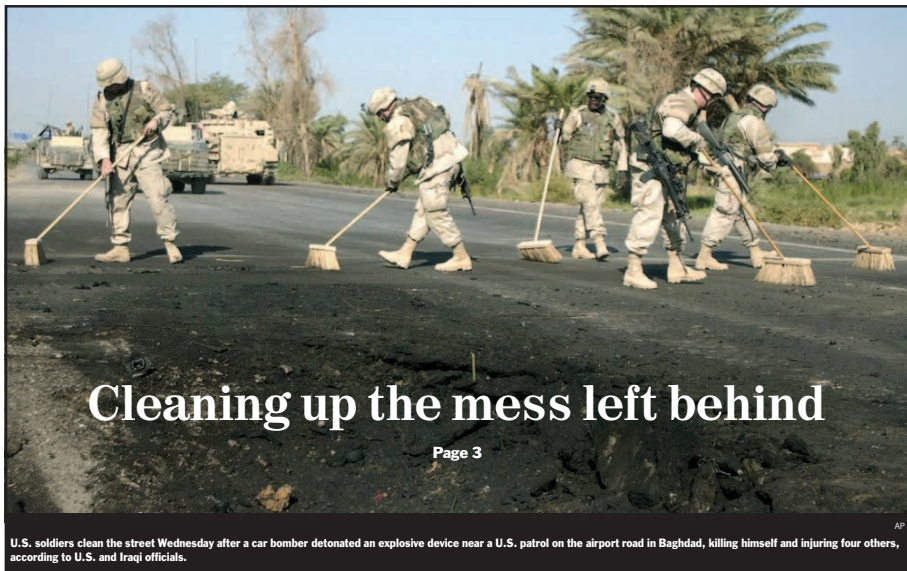
Good Charlotte

Volume 2, No. 194 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2004

200,000 to complete anthrax shot regimen

DOD: Servicemembers have until Dec. 31 to resume vaccinations Page 6



Cleaning up the mess left behind

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AP
U.S. soldiers clean the street Wednesday after a car bomber detonated an explosive device near a U.S. patrol on the airport road in Baghdad, killing himself and injuring four others, according to U.S. and Iraqi officials.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Kashmir talks: Pakistan and India have set dates for talks in December on starting a bus service between the two nations' portions of Kashmir, as part of a series of moves to improve ties between the longtime rivals, an official said Wednesday.

The meeting is scheduled for Dec. 7-8 in the Indian capital, New Delhi, said Masood Khan, spokesman for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry.

Kashmir is divided by a heavily militarized cease-fire line, while both nations claim it in its entirety. The nuclear-armed neighbors have fought two wars over Kashmir since their independence from British rule in 1947. In recent months, both sides have taken steps to bury their bitter past and forge friendly ties.

Gaza withdrawal vote: Israel's Shin Bet security service has tightened protection of the prime minister and legislators ahead of next week's crucial parliament vote on a Gaza withdrawal, security officials said Wednesday.

In the countdown to the decision, Israel's political climate has become increasingly explosive. Some opponents of withdrawal have denounced Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as a dictator who is endangering Israel.

Security officials said the Shin Bet is on high alert for possible attacks on Sharon, and he was being up an unprecedented number of bodyguards this week.

Chinese hostages: About 1,000 Pakistani soldiers backed by helicopter gunships, mortars and artillery Wednesday pounded a mountainous region near the Afghan border where the former Guantanamo Bay prisoner who masterminded the kidnapping of two Chinese engineers is believed to be hiding.

The assault targeted the village of Spinkai Raghzi in South Waziristan, a tribal region where the Pakistani army has been hunting Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida associates. But the top military commander in the region said Tuesday it was unlikely bin Laden was hiding in the area, as U.S. authorities suspect.

Also Wednesday, intelligence officials said they had captured a suspected al-Qaida communications expert.

Haiti violence: Peacekeepers and police were struggling to stem violence in Haiti as government officials announced talks were under way to purchase weapons after a 13-year U.S. arms embargo.

While there was no immediate confirmation on the reported lifting of the arms embargo, the U.S. State Department has said it would consider individual requests from the Haitian government for weapons purchases.

The United States imposed the embargo in 1992 after a military coup first ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. U.S. troops restored Aristide in 1994 but maintained the embargo.

Justice Minister Bernard Gousse said last week that Haiti's interim government had ordered an unspecified number of weapons for the police force. An adviser to the police, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, confirmed the order on Tuesday with The Associated Press.

Kyoto protocol: The European Commission approved emissions trading plans in six European Union countries Wednesday, bringing the total of EU nations ready to implement the Kyoto climate change pact to 14.

Officials said Belgium, Estonia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal and Slovakia had met all requirements to start their schemes. It gave a further conditional green-light to Finland and France, if they make certain technical changes.



Thailand bird flu: Tigers watch a Thai zoo worker spray a disinfectant chemical at the Siracha Tiger Zoo near Bangkok, Thailand, after the zoo was closed down Tuesday. Zoo officials have agreed to destroy 40 tigers believed to have bird flu; 30 tigers have died since Oct. 14. The tigers are thought to have contracted the disease by eating raw chicken, which they are fed regularly.

Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom said Wednesday's approvals marked "another key step" to implement the 1997 global climate change pact, which commits the 25-nation EU to cut its emissions of carbon dioxide by 8 percent from 1990 levels by 2012. So far, emissions are down only 2.9 percent.

Bardot defamation suit: A court on Monday threw out a defamation suit against Brigitte Bardot, ruling that the former film star turned animal rights campaigner was provoked into calling the host of Radio Courtyou "a little jerk."

The court accepted that Bardot, who turned 70 last month, was provoked by Marc-Olivier Fogiel's insistence that she talk about her controversial best-selling book during the May 12, 2003, show "You Can't Please Everyone." She refused.

Fogiel was ordered to pay Bardot's court costs.

States

Rosa Parks guardian: Lawyers for Rosa Parks have asked a federal judge to reverse his order appointing former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer as guardian ad litem for the 91-year-old civil rights pioneer.

U.S. District Judge George Steinhilber appointed Archer last week to protect Parks' interests in a pair of civil lawsuits. Parks' doctors have told a federal magistrate that she is in poor health and suffers from dementia.

Parks sued the rap group OutKast in 1999, claiming they wrongly used her name in the title of a song. A second lawsuit filed in August seeks more than \$5 billion from the group's record companies and two major bookellers.

Parks' lawyer in the civil cases, Gregory Reed, filed a motion Monday asking Steinhilber to block Archer's appointment while he considers whether to reverse his order.

Archer, a former Michigan Supreme Court justice and past president of the American Bar Association, was to meet Monday with Parks. But he said he didn't mind waiting a few days for Steinhilber to decide whether

to set aside his order.

Phone-jamming suit: Two Democratic senators have asked U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to stop interfering in a civil suit over phone-jamming by New Hampshire Republicans during the 2002 elections.

U.S. Sens. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Patrick Leahy of Vermont on Tuesday wrote a letter demanding that the Justice Department, which is prosecuting a state criminal case, withdraw its request to put the civil case on hold for six months.

Lawyers for the Democratic Party were scheduled to take sworn testimony from Republican witnesses last week about a national GOP official who allegedly approved the phone-jamming operation.

At the last minute, Justice Department lawyers involved in the criminal case called and said they were going to ask for a stay. The GOP witnesses did not show up, despite a state court order requiring them to do so.

Hinckley visitation: Presidential assailant John W. Hinckley Jr. is asking a court to grant him broad new freedoms to leave a Washington psychiatric hospital without staff supervision for several days at a time to visit his elderly parents in Williamsburg, Va.

Hinckley is seeking an unlimited number of day visits with his parents. He wants to spend no more than two weeks at a time between those outings at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, where he has been confined since being found not guilty by reason of insanity in the 1981 shootings of President Ronald Reagan and three others.

Prosecutors said Tuesday that they will oppose the request. U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman has scheduled a hearing for Nov. 8 to consider the matter.

Hurricane Isabel: A grand jury indicted 11 city residents on charges of fraudulently obtaining emergency food stamps after Hurricane Isabel last year.

Everyone charged Monday lives in Virginia Beach and works for either the Virginia Beach or Norfolk Human Services department. A similar inquiry of Norfolk residents is under way. Norfolk Commonwealth's Attorney John R. Doyle III said.

The investigations were required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and are part of a statewide probe.

The alleged fraud ranged from \$139 to \$663, and included underreporting income and falsely claiming dependents, said Virginia Beach Commonwealth's Attorney Harvey L. Bryant III.

Clinton heart surgery: Former President Bill Clinton is proving to be a surprisingly "patient patient" as he recovers from quadruple heart bypass surgery. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday. But his doctors haven't yet cleared him to hit the campaign trail for fellow Democrat John Kerry.

As part of the plea agreement, as we speak, the former first lady said during a news conference about flu vaccine. She said the former president has received a flu shot.

Airport incident: A former Cuban Olympic wrestler pleaded guilty to ramming his SUV into a ticket counter at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport on the Fourth of July.

Alexis Vila Pionono, 33, pleaded guilty in Miami federal court to intentionally using a motor vehicle to seriously damage and disrupt an international airport, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

As part of the plea agreement, other charges against him will be dropped after he is sentenced Jan. 5. Vila faces a maximum 20-year sentence and a maximum fine of \$25,000.

Stories and photos from wire services

CARE suspends Iraq operations

Car bombs explode in Samarra

By ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Care International suspended operations in Iraq on Wednesday after gunmen seized the woman who ran the humanitarian organization's work in the country. The victim's Iraqi husband appealed to the kidnappers to free her "in the name of humanity, Islam and brotherhood."

Two suicide car bombs exploded in Samarra, a city that U.S. and Iraqi forces claimed this month to have recaptured from insurgents. The two blasts, within 15 minutes of each other, killed an Iraqi child and wounded 13 people, including 11 U.S. soldiers and an interpreter, the Army said.

One of the bombs targeted a U.S. patrol that stopped to talk with children in city, said Maj. Neal O'Brien, spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division in Tikrit.

Residents said U.S. and Iraqi forces imposed a dusk to dawn curfew in the city, located 60 miles north of Baghdad.

U.S. and Iraqi forces seized control of Samarra early this month, and officials have cited Samarra as an example of how to take back towns and cities that have become insurgent strongholds.

A car bomb also shook central Baghdad at sunset, sending a large plume of smoke rising from the western bank of the Tigris River.

There were no reports of casualties among U.S. troops, said Capt. Mitchell Zornes of the 1st Cavalry Division. Bursts of gunfire erupted following the blast, witnesses said, and the smoke could be seen rising north of the Jumbura bridge and behind the Mansour Hotel.

Elsewhere, an influential Sunni Muslim cleric organization de-



Iraqis inspect a building destroyed by rockets Wednesday in Fallujah, Iraq. Residents said the blast killed six.

manded the Iraqi government persuade the Americans to forgo a full-scale attack on the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

"Iraqis consider Fallujah the symbol of their steadfastness and pride," said Sheikh Harith al-Dhawi, head of the Association of Muslim Scholars, which has links to some insurgents. "There is no reason to attack Fallujah. Attacking Fallujah is the wish of the (American) occupation troops and some interim government officials."

U.S. jets rocketed targets in Fallujah, hitting a key militant command center Wednesday, the U.S. Marines said. Residents said six people were killed but the report could not be independently confirmed. Another rocket at a women's college failed to explode, residents said.

CARE director Margaret Hassan, who holds British, Irish and Iraqi citizenship, was seized early Tuesday on her way to work in western Baghdad after gunmen blocked her route and dragged the driver and a companion from the car, her husband said.

Hassan, who is in her early 60s,

is among the most widely known humanitarian officials in the Middle East and is also the most high-profile figure to fall victim to a wave of kidnappings in Iraq in recent months.

Her husband, Tahseen Ali Hassan, made a plea on Arabic television, saying his wife had been helping Iraq for three decades.

"In the name of humanity, Islam and brotherhood, I appeal to the kidnappers to free her because she has nothing to do with politics," he told Al-Arabiya.

The husband told Al-Jazeera that his wife had not received threats and that the kidnappers had not contacted anyone with any demands as of Tuesday night.

The Iraqi government condemned the abductors. "Her kidnapping is a clear indication of the base and bad intents of the terrorists who call themselves 'mujahideen,' a clear insult to Islam and Iraq," the statement said.

CARE Australia, which coordinates the international agency's programs in Iraq, announced Wednesday it suspended operations because of the abduction, but it said staff would not be evacuated.

It was unclear how many non-Iraqis work for CARE here.

Many nongovernmental organizations began withdrawing international staffers after attacks on foreigners and their institutions began in earnest in the summer of 2003.

"Our staff are not operating currently there, they're certainly not working there now in light of the current situation," Robert Glasser, CARE Australia's chief executive officer, told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Astrid van Genderen Stort, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said it was up to each nongovernmental organization whether to keep staff in the country, noting "the dangers of operating in Iraq."

Militants have kidnapped at least seven other women in the past six months, but all were later released. Last month, Italian aid workers Simona Torretta and Simona Panti were kidnapped but freed after three weeks in captivity.

At least 30 male hostages have been killed, including three Americans and a Briton beheaded by their captors.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,103 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 846 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include three military civilians. The AP count is 1 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 965 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 737 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 8,016 U.S. service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military: ■ One soldier died from a noncombat injury Monday at a base in Diyala province. The soldier was found in his living quarters after he did not return to his guard post.

The latest identification reported by the Defense Department:

■ No identifications reported.

Soldier pleads guilty to abuse charges

BAGHDAD — The highest-ranking soldier charged in the Abu Ghraib scandal pleaded guilty Wednesday to five charges of abusing Iraqi detainees at the prison as a two-day court-martial opened at a U.S. base.

U.S. Army reservist Staff Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick, 38, of Buckingham, Va., admitted to allegations of conspiracy, dereliction of duty, maltreatment of detainees, assault, and committing an indecent act. He was expected to be sentenced Thursday.

Under a plea bargain deal, several other charges against Frederick were dropped, according to his attorney, Gary Myers.

Frederick has agreed to cooperate fully in future investigations and courts martial, and will testify in future trials.

Italy: Coalition may be asked to leave

ROME — The Italian defense minister said he believes U.S.-led coalition troops in Iraq will be asked

to quickly lower their profile in the country after January elections and to withdraw as soon as possible.

In an interview in Wednesday editions of *Corriere della Sera*, Antonio Martino refused to give a timetable, and said, "We won't be able to leave before Iraqis prove they can dominate terrorism."

But he added that the Iraqi government, having gained full democratic legitimacy with the elections, will want to "quickly free itself of coalition forces."

Number of injured troops tops 8,000

WASHINGTON — The number of U.S. troops wounded in Iraq since military operations began in March 2003 has topped the 8,000 mark, according to figures released by the Pentagon on Tuesday.

The total of 8,016 is more than double what it was six months ago when the insurgency suddenly accelerated. On April 5 the number wounded in action stood at 2,988; by April 26 it had grown to 3,864.

The U.S. military death toll almost doubled in that same period, standing at 1,103 as of Tuesday, by the Pentagon's count. On April 2 it stood at 598.

From wire reports

News report: Iraqi soldiers abandoned unit in Samarra

Stars and Stripes

About 300 Iraqi soldiers abandoned their 750-man unit after being deployed to Samarra last month for a joint U.S.-Iraqi operation to retake the militant-controlled city, a British coalition official told USA Today.

In Wednesday's editions of the paper, British Army Brig. Nigel Aylwin-Foster, deputy commander of the coalition office for training and organizing Iraq's armed forces, was quoted as saying the deserters were spooked by an at-

tack on Sept. 19, about a week after they had been deployed.

A car bombing killed a battalion officer and injured eight soldiers. About 100 deserted after. By Sept. 24, even before the offensive kicked off in Samarra, 300 had left, the paper reported.

"It sounds bad, but what we were left with was the toughest soldiers," said Aylwin-Foster. "Those who left the fight will get punished."

The desertions are prompting coalition officials to improve training for Iraqi recruits, officials told USA Today.

Troop reaction to Iraq mission refusal mixed

Soldiers say driving unarmored vehicles is dangerous, but disobeying an order is too

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — Some soldiers serving in Iraq sympathize with the 343rd Quartermaster Company platoon soldiers who last week refused to disembark their fuel convoy from Tallil for Taji because they feared their vehicles were unsafe.

Wary of roadside bombs or snipers, the troops with the 343rd reportedly believed that driving their unarmored trucks, which they complained were riddled with mechanical problems, would have equaled a suicide mission.

Other troops on desert duty said they, too, distrust unarmored vehicles, and certainly wouldn't want to drive one in need of repairs.

However, they were mixed on whether the platoon should have openly disobeyed an order to roll out.

"The military knows about these roadside bombs, and the military should have had enough time to prepare," said Sgt. Casey Roby of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment. "The fact that they refused the mission? No, I don't have sympathy with that. All in all, they had a valid point, but they went about it the wrong way."

Roby said those in power who decide not to pay for armored vehicles need to spend more time in the field.

"I've been out in sector when a Humvee is blown up by a roadside bomb," he said. "I can see that it happens to a vehicle without armor. Soldiers who witness their friends and leaders hurt or killed by a roadside bomb, of course they don't want to go out without protection."

Roby said his unit once had an armored truck to make supply runs, but lost it and bent the frame. Now they have only a soft truck.

"We firsthand understand what these guys are going through," Roby said. He and his fellow soldiers were another armored



Left: Staff Sgt. Chris Garcia, left, and Sgt. Brian Homer of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment at Camp Victory, Iraq. Right: Sgt. Casey Roby, left, and Sgt. Shaun Johns of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, Camp Victory.

truck, though he said that all of them swore to follow orders to obey, and always would.

"We're going to do our part here," Roby said. "The military should do its part."

Sgt. Shaun Johns, also of the 1/5, said no troops should be forced to drive long distances in faulty vehicles without armor, oath or not.

"That's like saying your life ain't worth nothing ... When I signed my contract, I didn't sign up to be an idiot," Johns said. "I personally feel these 19 soldiers were the voices of thousands."

The soldiers said that the military's practice of having armored Humvees escort fuel convoys isn't enough protection — an M-16 can't defend against a hidden explosive that's already gone off.

"I could understand the reason they would not want to go out there if they had 19 fuel trucks and two Humvees," said Staff Sgt. Ronald Leuma, also of the 1/5.

"I guess he wanted somebody to take it," said Coates, whose son is 26-year-old Spc. Major Coates.

The Army announced last week it was investigating up to 19 members of a platoon from the 343rd Quartermaster Company, based in Rock Hill, S.C., after they refused to transport supplies from Tallil air base near Nasiriyah to Taji north of Baghdad.

Families of several of the soldiers have said the men would not have taken such drastic action without compelling reasons. Some said the commanders did not act on complaints that the convoy was hauling contaminated fuel or that their vehicles were in poor working order and were not sufficiently protected with armor.

"When I signed my contract, I didn't sign up to be an idiot. I personally feel these 19 soldiers were the voices of thousands."

Sgt. Shaun Johns

1st Cavalry Division's 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment

He said it shouldn't take the rebellion of an entire platoon and national exposure to force the Army to buy armored vehicles that run well.

"That's the sad part," he said. "You have to go through all this to make this happen."

Staff Sgt. Chris Garcia and Sgt. Brian Homer drive tanks and armored personnel carriers for the 1st Cav's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, and have often tracked on the flanks of convoys to provide security.

"We kind of ride alongside in kind of a Mad Max dialogue," Homer said.

Garcia said the unit's com-

plaints did not surprise him, but their refusal of an order did.

"It's their mission to re-supply," he said. "And it was the whole platoon."

Capt. Joseph James, spokesman for the 2-12, said commanders encourage soldiers to tell them whether a mission is safe and whether their equipment suffers from any malfunctions. He said commanders want their soldiers to be safe.

Homer agreed.

"If we are out on patrols and I say, 'Hey, sir, I have a bad feeling about this ... can we take a different route?' And he'll say, 'Sure, why not?'"

But were things really unsafe and equipment faulty, Homer said that he, too, might refuse an order to roll.

"If the vehicles aren't armored and have serious mechanical problems, I'd probably do the same thing," he said. "I'd say I'd rather take another vehicle, or wait until it's fixed."

James said that the only time a soldier can refuse an order is when that order is illegal, though he left the nuances of that to military lawyers.

On Friday, the Army announced it is investigating the incident that occurred two days before, and will weigh whether the 343rd soldiers disobeyed military law. U.S. newspapers have reported that the troops have been arrested, but the Army has denied this, saying that, so far, none of the soldiers in the platoon has been detained or disciplined.

The unit itself is inspecting the vehicles to determine whether they are, in fact, unsafe.

E-mail Ward Sanderson at sandersonw@mail.strips.osd.mil

Refusal came after outpost rejected fuel delivery, GI's father says

BY EMERY P. DALESIO

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Army reservists refused to carry out what they considered a dangerous supply mission in Iraq last week only after another military outpost rejected the fuel they were to deliver, according to the father of one of the soldiers.

The soldiers had just returned from a 2,000-mile journey to the fuel site in a city north of Baghdad, but military officials there found that the supplies were contaminated, said John Coates, who said he spoke to his son Thursday.

When the soldiers returned to their base with the fuel still in the tankers, their commander ordered the platoon to prepare for another transport mission, this

time to a hotspot of guerrilla activity, Coates said.

"I guess he wanted somebody to take it," said Coates, whose son is 26-year-old Spc. Major Coates.

The Army announced last week it was investigating up to 19 members of a platoon from the 343rd Quartermaster Company, based in Rock Hill, S.C., after they refused to transport supplies from Tallil air base near Nasiriyah to Taji north of Baghdad.

Families of several of the soldiers have said the men would not have taken such drastic action without compelling reasons. Some said the commanders did not act on complaints that the convoy was hauling contaminated fuel or that their vehicles were in poor working order and were not sufficiently protected with armor.

Another member of the unit, Spc. Reeves Williams, 19, of Maiden, N.C., told his mother, Geneva White, that he helped carry out the delivery with eight other soldiers after initially refusing to do so.

"My son has strong convictions," White told the Hickory Daily Record for a story in Wednesday's editions. "For him to say no, there is something definitely, definitely wrong."

Ricky Shealey of Quinton, Ala., said his son, Spc. Scott Shealey, said the trucks earmarked for the mission had hauled jet fuel and were then loaded with diesel fuel without purging the tanks.

The platoon's soldiers told their commander that the trucks broke down four times during their previous mission, John Coates said.

They urged their commander to ride on the new mission through hostile territory to see how faulty the trucks were. The officer refused.

"That's when they banded together," John Coates said. "They were worn out." Soldiers with drawn weapons took the troops into custody, John Coates said.

The commanding general of the 13th Corps Support Command, Brig. Gen. James Chambers, denied the fuel was contaminated. He said Sunday the Army is adding steel armor plating on unarmored vehicles and upgrading maintenance.

The Iraqi trunk trucks used by the platoon appeared to date from the mid-1960s "because of the condition and the way it looked," John Coates was told by his son. The trucks regularly overheated and couldn't reach a top speed much beyond 35 mph, John Coates said.

Barno: U.S. will have no direct role in policing Afghan opium

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — U.S. forces in Afghanistan likely will not play an active and direct law enforcement or combat role in eradicating Afghanistan's opium production, said Lt. Gen. David Barno, commander of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan.

"We're assessing exactly how the military's role may be shaped as we go into this coming year, given the significant threat that drugs [pose]," he said during a Tuesday press briefing at the Pentagon. "As we look at our mission in Afghanistan for the coalition military, [of] which the U.S. is a significant part, clearly we have a full plate right now with actions we're doing around the country in counterterrorism, with working to build Afghan security forces, with assisting in the reconstruction."

"However we also recognize the threat of narcotics ... is very significant and threatens our overall strategic objectives," Barno said. "To speculate a little bit, I think eradication for U.S. troops would be less likely. I think we will play larger roles in assisting in other aspects of the drug fight."

Once nearly eradicated by the Taliban regime, a U.N. report has stated that Afghanistan's poppy crop has grown to become the world's top opium producer after U.S.-led coalition forces attacked the country in 2001 in search of al-Qaida terrorist network leader Osama bin Laden.

Bin Laden continues to elude forces, but Barno said officials do not believe he controls day-to-day operations of the terrorist network, in Afghanistan or anywhere else.

Barno caught heat from Pentagon leadership when he said in January that he anticipated that bin Laden would be caught by year's end, and said he'll be making no more predictions.

"I retired my crystal ball and I don't make predictions anymore in terms of when we're potentially going to get any of

the figures out there that we pursue every day in Afghanistan."

"But I would also tell you that I don't see any indications that he is in day-to-day command and control, as it were, of the al-Qaida organization or the other terrorist groups that work with him, certainly in the Afghanistan-Pakistan area," Barno said.



Barno

He credited the recently trained Afghan police and military forces for helping to keep safe the Oct. 9 elections, saying the Afghans seized 60 improvised explosive devices, recovered rocket-propelled grenades, artillery rounds, mines and explosives, and arrested 22 individuals reportedly carrying weapons, munitions and other explosives to the polls.

"The overwhelming success of their efforts, and of the election as a whole, represents a significant defeat for the Taliban and al-Qaida and a significant victory for the millions of Afghans who chose to embark on a great journey to freedom and self-determination," Barno said. An estimated 8.4 million Afghans voted, he added.

Barno countered criticisms, like those offered by Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, that the U.S. military's focus in Iraq deprived forces needed attention in Afghanistan.

U.S. Central Command provides him the flexibility to add, if necessary, to the nearly 18,000 troops based in Afghanistan. For example, he said, he received a battalion from the 82nd Airborne Division to bolster forces to counter the anticipated violence surrounded the elections.

"I'm comfortable with the number of troops in country," he said. "I see no need to build up the base now."

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Colorado extends voting deadline for overseas citizens

Stars and Stripes

Because of a delay in the mailing of absentee ballots to Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act citizens from Colorado for the November election, the state has extended the deadline for the receipt of such ballots by ten days, to Nov. 12, the Federal Voting Assistance Program said in a Tuesday news release.

Overseas voters who have not yet received their state absentee ballot can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (Standard Form 186) to vote for candidates for federal office. This ballot is available from a unit's Voting Assistance Officer or at the embassy or consulate.

Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness and overseer of an aggressive DOD campaign to get out the vote, told Stripes in August that voting by Oct. 15 "should" ensure that votes are registered, even if sent "from the remotest part of the world to the remotest part of the United States."

The Military Postal Service Agency has promised to move all marked ballots first in any shipments of ballots, and the U.S. Postal Service has promised to "overnight" or express mail, all ballots sent from overseas.

Voting Assistance Officers should again contact Colorado voters and provide help to them in returning their absentee ballot, according to a release from the Federal Voting Assistance Program. Overseas citizens should fill out and return their ballots immediately upon receipt.

Colorado also allows return of the voted ballot by fax. Information on faxing is available at: www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html

Further information on Colorado precincts, candidates and voting is available at: www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/main.htm.

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200,000 to complete anthrax shot regimen

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Troops who received some of their anthrax inoculations before the Pentagon halted it 3 years ago have until Dec. 31 to resume their six-shot regimen, no matter where they might be stationed, officials said.

About 200,000 troops need to pick up the vaccination where they left off, even if it has been three years since their last shot, said Col. Steve Jones, director of the Military Vaccine Agency.

Commanders will be responsible for working with health care providers and troops to ensure shot records are up-to-date and that those who qualify get their shots, Jones said.

The controversial vaccination program is mandatory for all personnel deploying to areas Pentagon officials have deemed "high risk" and for those who already started the process. The department will not inoculate those exempt for health reasons, though exempted personnel still are deployed.

For security reasons, Pentagon officials won't publicly define the high-risk areas, or say how many doses are available.

Anthrax vaccines were suspended in June 2001 because of a lack of vaccine when the manufacturer, BioPort, changed its manufacturing process without FDA approval. The stoppage created a stockpile shortage for the military. When the program resumed in 2002, it first started with troops deploying to the high-risk areas. With supply no longer an issue, the program can expand to include other troops, Jones said.

Some servicemembers have maintained the vaccine causes health problems and have accepted



Sgt. Scott Johnson, 29, gives an anthrax vaccination booster shot to Sgt. Jeremy Stanton, 26, at the DiLorenzo Tricare Health Clinic at the Pentagon. All servicemembers have until Dec. 31 to get caught up on their anthrax vaccine shots.

SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ed separation from service or disciplinary action for disobeying an order rather than take it.

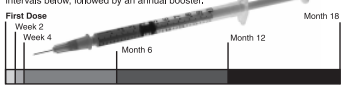
This summer, the Pentagon expanded the vaccination program in two phases. In June, as a result of an increase in supply, the Pentagon started inoculating "tens of thousands" of U.S. troops in or heading to the Pacific Command and Central Command areas.

In July, the program resumed for troops who already had received a dose before the program's halt, regardless if deployed to a combat zone or stationed in the United States, Jones said.

Stars and Stripes requested information from the Department of Defense after seeing reports on the matter.

Back on track

The Pentagon is bringing back the six-shot regimen for the anthrax vaccine, starting with troops in or heading to "high-risk" areas. Servicemembers will receive the six shots at the intervals below, followed by an annual booster.



Stars and Stripes

Since the June 2002 resumption, the department has inoculated about 840,000 personnel. Since the program's inception in 1998, more than 1.2 million people have

been vaccinated, he said.

In spite of the lag, troops do not have to start over with the regimen, experts said.

"We're following guidance

from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) ... on immunization practices and they recommend to one, stay on schedule as close as possible, and two, if you miss [a dose] it is not necessary to resume the entire sequence. Start where you left off," Jones said.

However, the shots are unnecessary, said Dr. Meryl Nass, a physician at Mount Desert Island Hospital in Bar Harbor, Maine, and an anthrax and bioterrorism expert who has testified repeatedly before Congress as a vocal opponent to the program.

"What is the evidence that there is a risk? There is none," said Nass. "[Presidential candidates] Bush and Kerry both are beating the drums about the risk of bioterrorism, but every credible organization that has looked into the issue hasn't found any," she said. "There are no weapons of mass destruction [in Iraq] and two groups hand-picked to find them didn't find them."

But troops need the vaccine, Jones said.

"We still feel the threat remains," Jones said. "We do not see a change in the threat and we think it is important to continue to provide a layer of protection to our troops and vaccinations is one of the primary layers of protection we can provide them."

The CDC is conducting studies to determine if the six-dose regimen can be lowered to three. It hopes to submit data to the FDA in early 2005 that could change the route of administration to intramuscular and reduce the dose schedule to five doses, with the full study to change to four doses and possibly biannual boosters in late 2007.

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Military program meets growing demand for nonlethal tactics

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — One year ago the commander of the U.S. European Command, Marine Gen. James L. Jones, asked about the status of nonlethal weapons among Europe-based forces.

Plans to use the less-than-lethal tactics and weapons are now being put together for use in non-war situations, according to Laura Falkenbach, the EUCOM Non-Lethal Weapons Program officer.

"There is an increasing demand for a broader scope of options between lethal and nothing; that, on top of some emerging peacekeeping requirements in our [area of operation]," Falkenbach said. "So he wanted to know where we stood on it."

"You're always going to have the lethal option. Sometimes having a nonlethal option will change the mind of a crowd. You're trying to reduce collateral damage and keep it at a manageable level."

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe in Stuttgart is hosting a two-week training course on nonlethal weapons and tactics, which ends Friday. Fourteen Marines are taking the course and will, in turn, become teachers themselves.

Topics included rules of engagement, crowd dynamics, hand-to-hand control, use of batons and personal and vehicle searches.

Falkenbach said that various commands in Europe had nonlethal gear one year ago, but there was no across-the-board training or doctrine on using it.

"We provided a summary of our capabilities and recommendations on how we could further use nonlethal capabilities in this theater," Falkenbach said. "We ended up talking with a lot of [EUCOM component commands] and found there was a lot of interest out there."

The nonlethal gear comes in sets that can include munitions, training items, smoke grenades, riot gear, bullhorns, high-intensity

lights and traffic-control devices such as road spikes.

The sets are modularized in "embarkation boxes" and can be transported by sea and air. They can be air-dropped, if needed. The sets are currently designed to outfit a company of 200 troops.

"Now we're looking at ways to make them smaller," Falkenbach said, so they could be used more quickly and be more portable.

"When the situation is appropriate, let's bring the less-than-lethal munitions with us," said Maj. Shannon Geaney of MARFORCEUR. "There's an array of weapons that the Marines in Stuttgart were being trained to use. Some were for use at very close range, and others were for use at a distance of up to 50 meters."

The key was not to kill people who didn't deserve it, according to Sgt. Travis Toney of the 2nd Special Operations Training Group, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"Whenever you can help it, aim to center mass [and not the head or groin]," Toney told his stu-



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

The 12-gauge beanbag round, left, and the 12-gauge fin-stabilized rubber round are two of the nonlethal weapons that Marines in Stuttgart are being trained to use.

dents during a class Monday.

"The last thing you want to do with any of these weapons is to create a penetrating trauma."

The goal of the nonlethal weapons program, Falkenbach said, is to make nonlethal weapons tactics the same among all the service

es, to help allies use nonlethal weapons and tactics, and to use new equipment as it becomes available.

"[The program] is still in the formative stages, but we have some ideas," she said.

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Live-fire action at LSA Anaconda

BY JULIANA GITTIER

Stars and Stripes

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — About 60 soldiers with the Special Troops Battalion under the 13th Corps Support Command, completed quarterly convoy combined-arms live-fire training Wednesday at the Anaconda range.

The training — using 9 mm pistols, M-16 rifles and Squad Automatic weapons — prepares soldiers who accompany convoys in Iraq.

The groups practice several scenarios, including some with civilians and some with casualties. "You can't beat this training," said Capt. Kevin McPherson with the 21st Replacement Company.

The training gives soldiers practice with weapons and engaging a target but also the confidence to stay calm under pressure, he said.

Soldiers do similar training at U'dairi Range in Kuwait before going into Iraq. They maintain their skills through quarterly training such as Wednesday's training at Anaconda.

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Above: Staff Sgt. Deion Toney, with the 302nd Transportation Company, prepares to return fire after her convoy was "attacked" during a live-fire simulation at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq. Below: A soldier engages a target during live-fire training. The training, in and out of vehicles, is meant to prepare soldiers for convoy duty.

PHOTOS BY
JULIANA GITTIER
Stars and Stripes



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CFC# 1700

S. Korea-based MPs head to Iraq

Two platoons to stay until spring

BY FRANKLIN FISHER

Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — The U.S. Army in South Korea has deployed 70 military police officers to Iraq for MP duty there until next spring. With what seemed an air of eagerness and buoyancy, the troops — two platoons of the 728th Military Police Battalion — boarded a commercial jet here Wednesday morning.

Sending them off with smiles and handshakes were Korea-based Army brass, including 8th Army commander Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell. The 8th Army Band played military marches as the troops filed toward the boarding stairs.

The Army needs the troops in Iraq to pull MP duties while it adjusts the scheduling of units involved in Iraq rotation, officials said.

"As the Army is supporting a very heavy operations tempo with multiple units rotating in and out in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom," said Maj. Kate Johnson, an 8th U.S. Army spokeswoman in Seoul, "there was a need to provide a supplemental unit while the rotation schedule is being reset."

"So basically... they've looked at our units and they've said, 'Okay, we need these units for several months while we reset the schedule.'"

This deployment does not represent the start of a trend of sending soldiers from the peninsula to Southwest Asia," Johnson said. "Our mission is the deterrence on the peninsula, and remains deterrence on the peninsula."

At the Osan flight line Wednesday, many of the troops wore smiles, could be heard joking with one another and moved briskly about the task of readying their rucksacks and weapons for the flight to Iraq.

"They're ready to go," said their battalion commander, Lt. Col. Steven L. Crowe. "They're itching. So that's good."

The troops are drawn from two of the battalion's companies: the 57th Military Police Company at Camp Carroll in Waegwan, and the 552nd Military Police Company at Camp Hialeah in Pusan. Each company furnished a platoon — 35 MPs including the platoon leader and platoon sergeant. The battalion is headquartered at Camp Henry in Taegu.

It received orders recently to quickly prepare the two platoons for Iraq duty.

What ensued were several weeks of intense preparations within the battalion and its parent unit, the 8th Military Police Brigade, officials said.

The push was "a Herculean ef-

fort on my staff's part and the brigade staff's part to get them out," Crowe said. "There's just no time. We get the mission, and two-and-a-half weeks later, we have to go."

The troops themselves underwent two weeks of Iraq-specific combat training that emphasized how to cope with roadside bombs and similar explosive devices and tips about the Iraqi people and culture, officials said.

"The thing we keep stressing is, know the basics and just keep your eyes and ears open," Crowe said.

"The same skill sets that they apply here they'll apply there," said Col. Falkner Heard III, commanding officer of the 8th Military Police Brigade. "But now, you know, the 'pucker factor' goes up..." he said. "In Iraq they'll be in a hostile environment and I think that always makes them a little more focused and a little sharper."

In the run-up to Wednesday's departure, the battalion added new training topics for the troops: playing MPs: handling the IED, or improvised explosive device, as well as Iraq-specific cultural awareness instruction.

"The hottest one we trained them on was IED," said Capt. Tonya Hightower, commanding officer of the 57th Military Police Company. "IED awareness and convoy operations — the common trends... going on there right now."

The training was fast-paced and intensive, with the task force training "at least 12, sometimes 16 to 18 hours a day for the last two weeks," Hightower said.

For Pfc. Ray Savoy, 19, of Aquasco, Md., the training was "pretty intense. It was good training all around. I took every bit of it and soaked it all in. I'm ready because they said 'Expect the worst.' That was what all the training was for."

When Savoy, the task force guidon bearer, phoned his mother with word he'd be going to Iraq, he told her not to worry. But his words don't seem to have taken hold yet, he said in a flightline interview shortly before boarding the plane.

Crowe called the deployment "a historic moment for the battalion because since the Korean War, it's been here the whole time."

Some 10 to 15 percent of the task force personnel have "seen combat" in Iraq, Afghanistan, or other conflicts like Somalia, Crowe said.

"So they're kind of mentors and advisers" to the rest of the task force troops, he said.

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IN THE STATES

Mo. plane crash kills at least 8 people

BY DAVID A. LIEB
The Associated Press

KIRKSVILLE, Mo. — Emergency crews searched woods and open fields early Wednesday for possible survivors of a commuter plane crash that killed at least eight people but left two others with only broken bones.

The American Airlines-affiliated Corporate Airlines plane, a twin-engine turboprop, crashed in the woods a few miles short of the Kirksville airport where it was preparing to land. Five people were missing, and the cause of the crash had not been determined.

One survivor, a 44-year-old woman, was walking around when rescuers arrived at the crash scene, and a 68-year-old man was found alive in brush about 25 feet from the fuselage.

"We see car accidents with worse injuries coming in here every week," said Dr. Charles Zeman, director of trauma services at Northeast Regional Medical Center. "This is truly a miracle."

Zeman said the male survivor broke his left hip and a bone in his lower back. The woman suffered a compound fracture of her right arm and mild to severe burns over 8 percent of her body. Both were in stable condition.

Several of the victims were on



Debris of the commuter plane that crashed Tuesday night in the woods just south of Kirksville, Mo., burns late Tuesday night as emergency personnel arrive at the scene.

their way to a medical conference, said Philip Slocum, dean and vice president for medical affairs at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Sgt. Brent Bernhardt of the Missouri State Highway Patrol said rescue workers were holding out hope the five missing also survived the crash and would be discovered in the daylight.

"We had officers out there all night," he said. "I'm confident that they did a good search, but I can tell you the area is heavy brush, it's hard to see through. When the daylight arrives, it's going to help us out tremendously."

The wreckage was scattered over an area about one mile across, but the two survivors were discovered "so close to the plane we're imagining the others probably should have been close to the plane if they survived," Adair County Chief Deputy Larry Logston said.

The plane — Corporate Airlines Flight 5966 — was on a regular route from St. Louis with 13 passengers and two crewmembers aboard when it crashed shortly after 7:50 p.m., said Elizabeth Isham Cory, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Chicago.

Emergency crews found the fuselage engulfed in flames and largely intact, with the wings broken off nearby, Logston said.

The last communication from the Jetstream 32 indicated it was on a normal approach to Kirksville Regional Airport in northeastern Missouri, and there was no mention of any problems, Cory said.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators arrived at the airport Wednesday morning and recovered both of the plane's flight data recorders.

Thunderstorms were reported in the area at the time of the crash, but it wasn't clear whether the weather was a factor.

More flu shot doses expected by January

BY DIDIERA HENDERSON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More flu vaccine is expected to be available for millions of Americans in January, but that could be too late.

The flu season typically peaks in January or later. It takes two weeks for people to develop immunity after being vaccinated, which should be done in October or November, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

So while the U.S. government is searching all over the world for more vaccine, it is unclear how helpful the extra doses will be if they don't arrive until next year.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, said Wednesday he believes the additional shots will arrive in time to help.

The flu season likely will "peak at the end of the December, the beginning of January, but it goes well through February and sometimes into March," he said on CBS's "The Early Show."

"So, any amount of doses that one can get, even as late as January, clearly will be very helpful, particularly if we have a very active flu year," Fauci said.

Federal health officials said Tuesday that 2.6 million additional doses of flu vaccine will be available in January, far fewer than the 48 million lost to contamination at a British manufacturing plant.

"We're waving a comprehen-

sive and aggressive response," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson told a news conference.

"We have good reason to be optimistic in our ability to deal with the flu season and protect the most vulnerable from its harsh effects."

He said there was enough antiviral medicine available to treat 40 million people, shortening illness in people sick with the flu and preventing illness in healthy people.

Between vaccines and antiviral drugs, enough medicine will be available to treat 100 million people this flu season, Thompson said. Federal authorities have asked that healthy adults refrain from getting vaccinated to leave enough for those at greatest risk: the very young, the very old and people with chronic illnesses. Sen. John Kerry, President Bush's Democratic challenger, has said the administration failed to heed warnings about a potential shortage.

"If you can't get flu vaccines to Americans, how are you going to protect them against bioterrorism? If you can't get flu vaccines to Americans, what kind of health care program are you running?" Kerry said.

In Florida, Bush sought to ease Americans' concerns. "I want to assure them that our government is doing everything possible to help older Americans and children get their shots despite the major manufacturing defect that caused this problem," he said.

California storms prompt evacuations

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — California's first major storm of the season dumped rain from the beaches to the mountains Wednesday, forcing the evacuation of 200 residents in the Sierra Nevada because of potential mudslides and knocking out power temporarily for at least 300,000 customers across the state.

The unusually early winter storm expanded into the Sierra and Southern California on Wednesday after pouring record rainfall onto the northern part of the state Tuesday.

One man was missing in northern Los Angeles County after falling into a wash during the night as the heaviest rain pounded Southern California.

Flooding and slippery roads caused dozens of traffic accidents, closing numerous sections of freeways and snarling the morning commute.

"I think everybody's staying indoors," said Mary Clark, a dispatcher for the California Highway Patrol in Santa Barbara County, where a 2-mile stretch of Route 150 was closed by rock slides.

Forecasters said parts of the region were getting up to 6 inches of rain, prompting forest officials to ease fire restrictions.

Several Southern California national forests announced they would reopen hundreds of thousands of acres Wednesday that had been closed to visitors due



Tourists use an umbrella during a light rain as they look at the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco during a storm system that hit California on Tuesday.

to extreme fire danger.

But residents and authorities say the region's first significant rain since April could bring catastrophic mudslides to mountain and hillside communities ravaged by last fall's disastrous wildfires.

"If it comes down slowly and easy, it's a blessing. If we get a deluge all at once,

it's a curse," Marvin McCain said Tuesday as he filled sandbags to protect his home in the San Bernardino Mountains.

The northern city of Redding got 3.12 inches of rain Tuesday, breaking a 104-year-old record for the date. Records were also set in Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto and Red Bluff. Wind gusts to nearly 60 mph Tuesday.

Schwarzenegger jokes that speech cost him sex life

The Associated Press

MONTEREY, Calif. — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is married to a Kennedy, joked at a public-policy conference that his sex life suffered after he endorsed President Bush at the Republican National Convention.

"There was no sex for 14 days," he said. "Everything comes with side effects."

Schwarzenegger, whose wife is TV journalist Maria Shriver, had an audience of about 1,000 people in stitches Monday as he took part in a lecture series organized by former Clinton administration chief of staff Leon Panetta.

Asked about the presidential debates, Schwarzenegger said if he wanted to watch a smart liberal Democrat and a Republican leader argue, "I'd just take my wife out to dinner."

He joked that he was a little jealous of President Bush and John Kerry because of their debate schedule.

"They were lucky. They only had to do it three times," Schwarzenegger said. "I have to do it every morning over breakfast."

Schwarzenegger told Panetta he was thrilled that people were talking about changing the U.S. Constitution to allow immigrants to run for president. But he said Democrats don't want "that Schwarzenegger-schnitzel" to be president.

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Bush, Kerry spar over leadership

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

WATERLOO, Iowa — Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry questioned on Wednesday whether President Bush is the exemplary leader he claims to be, pointing to the war in Iraq as evidence that he is not. Bush, also in Iowa, said Kerry's views show he can't defeat terrorism.

"This president likes to say he's a leader," Kerry said in text of the speech prepared for delivery. "Mr. President, look behind you. There's no one there. It's not leadership if no one follows."

Kerry also promised to reverse mistakes he says Bush made in Iraq.

"If President Bush cannot recognize the problems in Iraq, he will not fix them. I do recognize them and I'll fix them," Kerry said. "All Americans are concerned about the outcome in Iraq. Now, they have a choice. More of the same failed policy. Or a fresh start."

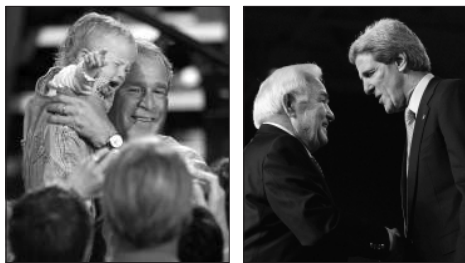
Bush, campaigning in Mason City, said Kerry's views on national security are so misguided that the Democrat would be unable to defeat terrorism.

"The next commander in chief must lead us to victory in this war and you cannot win a war when you don't believe you're fighting one," Bush told supporters in a northern Iowa farming community.

"My opponent also misunderstands our battle against insurgents and terrorists in Iraq, calling Iraq 'a diversion from the war on terror,'" Bush added.

Bush criticized a comment by Kerry that the evening of Sept. 11, 2001, hadn't changed him much and a comment by Kerry's top foreign policy adviser that the nation is not in a war on terror in a literal sense.

The Kerry campaign is guilty of "a funda-



AP Photos

Left: President Bush holds seventeen-month-old Claire Sorenson after speaking at a rally in Mason City, Iowa. Right: Retired Adm. Stansfield Turner talks with Democratic Presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., after introducing Kerry to deliver a speech Wednesday in Waterloo, Iowa.

mental misunderstanding of the war we face and that's very dangerous thinking," the president said.

Kerry said U.S. leaders must stop treating other countries with "contempt," driving them away from a role in Iraq security and reconstruction. He also repeated charges that the president's conduct has made the United States weaker, not stronger, in the war on terrorism.

"America is fighting and must win two wars. The war in Iraq, and the war on terror," Kerry said. "Iraq was a profound diversion from that war and the battle against our greatest enemy, Osama bin Laden and the al Qaeda network. But now that we're fighting

two wars, we must and we will prevail in both."

Bush referred to the case of terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who is engaging in beheadings of Americans in Iraq and has pledged his allegiance to Osama bin Laden, as further justification for the war in Iraq.

"If Zarqawi and his associates were not busy fighting American forces, does Sen. Kerry think he would be leading a productive and useful life?" asked Bush. "Of course not. And that is why Iraq is no diversion."

Kerry plans to visit two other close states, Ohio and Pennsylvania, on Wednesday. Bush was heading to Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Associated Press writer Pete Yost contributed to this story from Mason City, Iowa.

Broadcaster will show only parts of Kerry documentary

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Threatened with a shareholder revolt, Sinclair Broadcast said it will not broadcast in its entirety a documentary critical of John Kerry's anti-war activities, but will instead incorporate parts of the 42-minute film into a news special.

Parts of the film "Stolen Honor: Wounds That Never Heal" will be shown during a program examining the use of documentaries to influence elections, Sinclair said Tuesday. The company said media reports that the entire film was shown were "inaccurate."

The announcement came hours after shareholders challenged Sinclair's plans to air the film, saying the controversial broadcast may hurt their investment. Critics have called for an advertiser boycott.

Sinclair Broadcast Group Inc., the owner of 62 television stations that reach a quarter of U.S. households, has been criticized for ordering the stations to pre-empt regular programming to air the show.

"A POW Story: Politics, Pressure and the Media," will air Friday on 40 of the company's stations, including many in key swing states for the presidential election. A company spokesman had previously said the company planned to air some or all of the film.

Candidates prepared for post-election challenge

Republicans, Democrats assemble legal teams in case vote tally ends up in court

BY JO BECKER

The Washington Post

The ballots have yet to be counted, but less recounted. But attorneys for President Bush and Sen. John F. Kerry already are engaged in an intense legal battle for the presidency that could once again give the courts a say in who is declared the winner.

With less than two weeks to go before Election Day, an unprecedented number of lawsuits challenging basic election rules are pending in many battleground states. Both sides are in the final stages of training thousands of lawyers who will descend on the polls Nov. 2 to watch for voter fraud or intimidation.

Each campaign has teams of attorneys ready in the event of a recount in one or more states. Both are hitting up donors to pay the legal bills in case there is a disputed outcome that leaves the winner in doubt after the polls close.

Four years after the election between Bush and then-Vice President Al Gore deadlocked in Florida, the produced a 363-page legal whirlwind ultimately decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, courtroom battles have become as rou-

tine a part of the campaign as rallies and television ads.

The result, experts say, is a race shaping up to be the most litigious in U.S. history.

"Bush v. Gore really let the genie out of the bottle," said Richard Hasen, an election law professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. "Election law has become just another part of the political strategy of the parties."

Both sides say they have assembled what amounts to the largest virtual law firms in the country, relying on new volunteers as well as lawyers who cut their teeth in the 2000 recount.

In Florida, the Kerry team is headed by Miami lawyer Steven Zach, whose partner, David Boies, argued Gore's case before the Supreme Court in 2000. Bush's Florida team is headed by Hayden Dempsey, who in 2000 worked as a lawyer for Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Barry Richard, a Tallahassee lawyer who argued Bush's case before the Florida Supreme Court four years ago, is on point to defend the president again if necessary.

Nationwide, the Democrats plan to have more than 10,000 lawyers standing by at the polls in

battleground states to identify and address voting problems, particularly in the heavily minority precincts that saw a disproportionate number of ballots discarded in 2000. About 2,000 lawyers will be stationed in Florida alone.

With memories of Palm Beach County's infamous "butterfly ballot" still fresh, the legal team is scrutinizing ballot designs and has money set aside for conducting a public education campaign should a confusing ballot layout make that necessary.

Meanwhile, Democratic legal specialists are ready to wage recount battles in as many as five states at once. The Kerry-Edwards campaign has raised more than \$3 million for legal expenses.

"This has been one of the top, if not the top, priorities," said Kerry-Edwards general counsel Marc Elias. "The legal team is satisfied that we are working for a candidate who will not shy away from a full engagement with the other side."

Republicans say they will have lawyers covering 30,000 precincts who will be prepared to challenge at the polls the eligibility of voters whose registrations seem suspect. The GOP has assigned its state party organizations to lead the effort.

In Florida, Dempsey said he is

On the issues



Are Health Savings Accounts a good way for people to control their health-care costs?

President Bush



"Yes, HSAs allow people to save tax free to pay for their routine health-care needs, HSAs allow people to see the doctor when they need to, to spend their health dollars on their priorities,

and to still have coverage for major medical later. The goal is to let people control their costs under control, expand access and ensure Americans can choose and afford the private health-care coverage that best fits their individual needs."

Sen. John Kerry



"Health Savings Accounts aren't an answer for the middle class struggling with skyrocketing health-care costs, nor do they do enough to lower health-care premiums for our small businesses. Health Savings Accounts primarily benefit

healthy, wealthy Americans while doing little to expand coverage. I have proposed a comprehensive cost-containment plan which will allow families to save as much as \$1,000 a year on their premiums and which does not leave the poor and the sick behind."

AP

primarily concerned with ensuring that fraud and illegal voting by felons do not dilute the votes of those eligible to cast ballots. Republican sources say Dempsey will command a core team of about 265 lawyers, but he is not saying.

Both sides are keeping an eye on Colorado, where a ballot initia-

tive could change the way that state's nine electoral votes are allocated, from a winner-take-all approach to one that divides them up based on the popular vote. If the presidential election comes down to Colorado's electoral votes, they say, a legal battle to decide the presidency could once again land at the door of the Supreme Court.

IN THE WORLD

Iran prepares compromise to cease nuclear standoff

Official: Plan will not include stopping enrichment

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran has offered Europe a compromise plan to resolve a standoff over its nuclear program, a senior official said Wednesday, as the president vowed to continue developing Iranian nuclear technology.

Vice President Gholamreza Aghazadeh would not provide any detail about the Iranian offer, which he disclosed a day before Iranian diplomats are to meet representatives of Britain, Germany and France in Vienna, Austria.

The Europeans have been working on a package of economic incentives in the hope of persuading Tehran to permanently give up uranium enrichment, a technology that can be used to produce nuclear reactor fuel or weapons.

"We have submitted proposals to the Europeans. Now we are waiting for their reaction to our plan," Aghazadeh told reporters after a Cabinet meeting. He said

the plan would not compromise Iran's right to enrich uranium.

In Vienna, diplomats said in Thursday's meeting Britain, France and Germany would offer Iran the possibility of buying nuclear fuel from the West and a trade agreement. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity.

U.S. officials have portrayed the European package as Iran's last chance to abandon uranium enrichment and avoid the threat of U.N. sanctions.

On Nov. 25, the International Atomic Energy Agency is expected to deliver an assessment of Iran's cooperation with the U.N. nuclear agency. The United States, which accuses Iran of having a covert program to build atomic bombs, is pressing for the agency to refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council, which could impose sanctions.

Iran's chief delegate to the IAEA, Hossein Mousavian, said that Thursday's talks would fail if the Europeans insist on Iran's giving up enrichment. Iran demands

the right to control the whole cycle of nuclear fuel — from enriching uranium to consuming it in a nuclear reactor.

"If [the European] demand is going to be that Iran give up the nuclear fuel cycle, one should not pin any hope on the talks," Mousavian said in a phone interview with state television Wednesday.

"If the fuel cycle is off the table, and they're ready to talk about confidence-building measures, the way is open for dialogue," Mousavian added.

President Mohammad Khatami said his government was prepared to negotiate ways of assuring the world that Iran's nuclear program would not be used to make nuclear bombs.

"We are fully prepared for an understanding with the world and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency to assure that our activities won't be diverted toward weapons," he said.

"We expect that our legitimate rights be recognized and that Iran not be deprived of nuclear technology," Khatami said.

Collapsed government

NICOSIA, Cyprus — The shaky coalition governing Turkish-controlled north Cyprus collapsed Wednesday after months of confusion following a failed referendum to reunite the island.

Mehmet Ali Talat, who serves as prime minister in the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state, submitted his resignation to Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, nine months after taking office. Talat, who is extremely popular for his efforts to reunite the island, is expected to remain as premier temporarily.

Democracy urged

YANGON, Myanmar — A change in Myanmar's political leadership brought fresh calls Wednesday for the military-ruled Southeast Asian country to carry on with promises to restore democracy.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan led calls for change and reiterated his demand for the release of detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar's state broadcasters said Khin Nyunt, 65, had been replaced by Lt. Gen. Soe Win, a military hard-liner.

Spain terror plan

MADRID, Spain — The suspected leader of a Muslim cell plotted to devastate Spain with a suicide bombing that would kill senior judges and destroy huge

case files at a court that serves as a nerve center for investigating Islamic terror, officials said Wednesday.

Police also said they had intercepted hundreds of letters from suspected cell members in which they said they were willing to stage suicide attacks.

Nigerian senate slap

ABUJA, Nigeria — Nigeria's senate has suspended one of its members for two weeks for slapping a female colleague, officials said Wednesday.

Senator Isa Mohammed slapped his fellow senator Iyabode Anisulowo in the presence of other lawmakers on Wednesday last week, during an argument over the use of funds for local government in their home state of Niger, according to newspaper reports.

Dayton delegation

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A delegation from a U.S. city that played an important role in ending Bosnia's war — Dayton, Ohio — arrived in Sarajevo on Wednesday for a four-day official visit, local officials said.

The peace agreement that ended the 1992-95 Bosnian war was brokered by the United States in the city of Dayton. That city's mayor, Rhine McLin, and her delegation were received as dear friends, a statement from Sarajevo city officials said.

From The Associated Press



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OPINION

The votes are in, and carelessness has lost

The campaign is culminating with reckless charges about the possibility — actually, the certainty, such as life — that there will be imperfections in recording perhaps 110 million votes.

The charges are couched in the language of liberalism: much talk about voters' rights, no talk about voters' responsibilities, and dark warnings of victimization "disenfranchisement" and "intimidation."

Consider punch-card voting systems, and "overvotes" and "undervotes." Overvoting occurs when voters mark their ballots for two candidates for a single office. Undervoting occurs when voters do not mark a choice among the candidates for an office.

Only 12.4 percent of America's registered voters live in jurisdictions that use punch-card systems, the sort that Florida made infamous in 2000. But 72 percent of Ohioans do. On Sunday, The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch reported, beneath the headline "Punch Cards May Hurt Blacks," that such ballots cast with no vote recorded for president were in 2000 a higher percentage in black communities (5 percent) than in other communities (under 2 percent).

The state is being sued about "racial disparities" resulting from punch-card voting in three counties. However, The Dispatch reports several scholars' assertions that race is not the salient variable.

Higher levels of unrecorded presidential preferences supposedly correlate with low levels of income and education, appearing also in the predominantly white Appalachia

counties of southeastern Ohio.

Punch cards, The Dispatch says, are "prone" to overvotes and undervotes "because so many things can go wrong." For example, if "voters do not correctly insert the card into the voting device, the wrong holes can be punched." But is it unreasonable to expect voters to perform those simple manipulations? Are they victims — disenfranchised — if they do not? Surely not in Ohio, where printed guides to punch-card voting are supplemented by instructional videos on the Internet, and where instructions and instructors will be available at polling places.

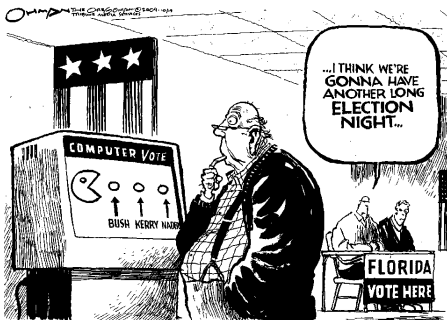
Granted, punch-card systems, like everything else in life, are not infallible. They can — remember Florida's hanging and dimpled (aka pregnant) chads? — inadequately record the intent of a voter, particularly one who is careless about the task of handling the simple punch-card mechanism. But how can punch cards be blamed for overvotes? And how does invalidating such a vote constitute "disenfranchisement"?

When poll taxes, mercenary literacy tests, hostile sheriffs and mobs stood between blacks and ballots, blacks were disenfranchised. To be disenfranchised is to have something done to you, not to do something to yourself.

Regarding undervotes, voters can always check to make sure they have clearly punched holes. Furthermore, they have a right — and are often right to exercise the right — to undervote by skipping certain choices on the ballot.

In some Florida jurisdictions this year, electronic touch-screen voting machines will react irritably to undervotes. If a voter skips a choice on the ballot, a message — e.g., "You have not made a choice on this race" — appears on the screen three times.

What more must be done to deal with the undervote problem — which often is not a problem but a sensible preference? Should there be more-severe prompts? The first



might be: "I'm just a machine, but shouldn't you be marking more boxes?" The second might be: "Hey, dolt — yes, you. The right to vote is precious, so even though you neither know nor care about a particular contest on the ballot, vote for someone — anyone — even if your vote is random."

Finally, the machine could threaten: "Cast more votes or you will wake up with a horse's head in your bed."

Would such growls from voting machines satisfy liberals that an undervote need not represent either a remediable flaw in the voter or in the technology? Can liberals accept that an undervote usually reflects either voter carelessness, for which the voter suffers the onerous punishment of an unrecorded preference, or it reflects the voter's

choice not to express a preference? No, otherwise they would not be liberals, obsessive about rights, blind to responsibilities.

On Monday a Colorado judge upheld a new requirement that voters are responsible for producing identification before being allowed to vote. And Florida's Supreme Court rejected the argument that voters are disenfranchised by not counting provisional ballots they cast in the wrong precincts.

Imagine that: Voters are responsible for proving who they are and knowing where they are supposed to vote. There will be charges that both rulings permit "intimidation," which in today's liberal lexicon is a synonym for linking rights to responsibilities.

George Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

No one should be Green with envy for Zone workers

BY STEPHEN A. MYROW

Two suicide bombers met for lunch last Thursday and then blew themselves up in the heart of the Green Zone, the home of the coalition and interim Iraqi government's leadership. Despite that many American civilians, including some media members, reside within or regularly travel to the Green Zone, the American public has, at best, been offered a cursory, if any, view of what life in the Green Zone is like.

The Associated Press says the Green Zone "resemble[s] a suburban 'Little America' in central Baghdad — with green lawns, restaurants, American television, U.S. flagpoles, even at least one swimming pool set up behind barricades and multiple checkpoints." Yet this same report fails to mention that most Americans — like me — and our coalition partners live in dressed-up shipping containers. The residential trailers are surrounded by ever-deteriorating sandbags that are not there for aesthetic purposes. I do not remember seeing many green lawns when I was there for three months this spring, but I have many memories of bombed-out buildings. Little America? Actually, it's a far cry from Top Gun.

Government employees in the Green Zone regularly work seven days a week and up to 18 hours per day. Meals are taken military-style in communal dining facilities. I miss my previous life as a corporate attorney on Wall Street seem like a part-time job. The normal workday is often interrupted with little annoyances, such as head counts to ensure that a staff member has not been blown up ... at one of the checkpoints or when running to the bomb shelter as insurgents begin walking in mortars and rockets.

For security reasons, stories on the dangers to those who live and work in the Green Zone generally do not find their way into the media, thus leaving Americans with the impression that those inside the Green Zone live without danger. But just last week I received an e-mail from a friend reporting that a mortar round landed but didn't explode in a Green Zone tent housing 15 men. It's as if I never really had housing.

Also unreported was the incident of the college student who worked down the hall from me for the chemistry of the Internet. He took a year off from school to dedicate himself to a cause in which he truly believed. He and his vehicle were riddled with bullets as

he returned from a grass-roots, democracy-building event at Baghdad University.

His life was saved when members of the Iraqi police pulled him out and raced him to the Green Zone. Just another day in Little America.

Violence is not a new phenomenon for those who live in the Green Zone, and it comes in waves. It is likely to increase as we approach ... both our own election and the historic Iraqi election set for late January.

A rise in violence in and of itself does not necessarily signify that we are on the wrong path in Iraq. On the contrary, our nihilist enemies who seek to prevent democracy from taking root in the middle of the Arab world will rely on more aggressive and desperate

acts of terror as we assist the Iraqi people in moving closer to their vision of a free Iraq.

There are cries for "supporting the troops." Not only do our troops deserve our respect but so do the civilians who labor in the Green Zone. Though there is indeed a swimming pool ... creature comforts are a far cry from life in middle America.

I am perplexed by descriptions such as the one in the Associated Press almost implying that Zagat is about to publish its inaugural guide to dining and night life in the Green Zone. ... In short, green — the symbol of safety — is a relative color.

Stephen A. Myrow served in Iraq as the chief of staff of the Coalition Provisional Authority's Transition Mission. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Powerful typhoon drenches Japan



AP

A billow caused by Typhoon Tokage slams against a seawall in a harbor in Beppu, Osaka Prefecture, southwestern Japan, on Wednesday. Eighteen people were killed and 10 others were missing as the powerful typhoon lashed southern Japan. The typhoon, now a tropical storm, prompted the evacuation of thousands of homes, officials said.

Military: Failure to disrupt Afghan vote causes Taliban rift

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar is facing "serious disagreements" with his commanders because of the rebel group's failure to disrupt Afghanistan's landmark presidential election this month, the U.S. military said Wednesday.

Spokesman Maj. Scott Nelson said the information was based on intelligence reports from Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan, but conceded that he did not know where the leader of the hardline Islamic militia was hiding.

Hamid Karzai's victory in Afghanistan's first presidential election could be sealed within days, a top election adviser said Wednesday — unless investigators uncover major fraud.

With 41.2 percent of the votes from the Oct. 9 election counted, the U.S.-backed interim leader has won 61.4 percent support and racked up a 44-point lead over his nearest challenger.

Nelson claimed that there was "significant demoralization" among the Taliban and frustration over Omar's "lack of effective-

ness" after Afghanistan's first democratic vote on Oct. 9 passed off largely peacefully.

"There have been serious disagreements between Mullah Omar and some of his lower commanders on the strategy for the follow-up attack on the election," Nelson told a news conference in the Afghan capital.

Omar has been at large since the ouster of the Taliban regime by U.S.-led forces in late 2001. Pressed on whether the rebel leader was in Afghanistan or Pakistan, Nelson said, "I don't know exactly where he's located at."

But he said, "We still see indications the man (Omar) is involved in planning Taliban operations in Afghanistan as well as Pakistan."

The U.S. military, which has nearly 18,000 forces hunting al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in Afghanistan, claimed in August there was a fissure developing in the Taliban movement and that it was starting to collapse.

That hasn't been independently confirmed. At the time, a purported Taliban spokesman said the breakaway faction was called Jaish-e-Millat, or Muslim Army, and was an insignificant group numbering 10-15 people.

S. Korea reviews second Internet terror threat

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea said Wednesday it was trying to confirm the credibility of a statement on an Islamic Web site that threatened terror attacks unless it withdraws troops from Iraq in a week.

A message posted on an Islamic Web site on Tuesday issued "a second warning to the agent South Korean government — kneeling before the crusading Americans."

"You only have seven days or else we will burn Seoul and make it crumble," the statement said.

The warning comes just days after a statement signed by "al-Qaida's network in South and East Asia" made a similar warning. That warning gave South Korea 14 days to comply.

South Korea completed its deployment of 2,800 troops in the Kurdish town of Irbil in northern Iraq last month, becoming the third-largest partner in the coalition after the United States and Britain.

From The Associated Press

Navy planning to test out camo 'working uniforms'

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROT4, Spain — Goodbye coveralls and straight-leg trousers.

Hello blue-and-gray cammies?

From runways to ship decks, the Navy this winter will "wear test" a new camouflaged uniform that could be the style standard across the fleet.

The newly designed "working uniform" is dramatically different from what sailors and officers have worn over the years and is a far cry from the traditional bell-bottom dungarees of the past.

The Navy on Monday unveiled four uniform variations about the amphibious assault ship USS Two Jima in Norfolk, Va. The Navy also released photos of what select commanders worldwide will try. It is the first glimpse of what sailors of all ranks and rates will wear.

"I think they're really nice," said Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony Carrier, 32, looking at photos of the new designs. "I also think that for personal protection it's better to have than the old-type dungarees because these are much tougher."

The four designs come in navy blue and ship-deck gray and are similar to the battle dress uniforms worn by the other services. The proposed uniforms come with either a digital or woodland pattern.

They're not designed to camouflage sailors into the background of a ship. They are supposed to be more practical, helping hide dirt, paint and grease spots better than solid-color utilities or coveralls.

The four types won't require ironing, are designed to last a year longer than the old uniforms and offer various options. For example, pants can be pleated or nonpleated, have an elastic or adjustable waistband and a button or zipper fly. Collars come

See photos on Page 15

either pointed or rounded, and blouse pockets can be slightly tilted for easier access.

Each uniform will come with a blue parka to match the camouflage pattern and can be worn in subfreezing temperatures, wind or a downpour. Non-polish suede boots can replace polished leather boots.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Katherine Velasquez, 25, of Los Angeles, is hoping the no-shine boots make the final cut because "then I don't have to shine my boots."

"They get suffed away," said Velasquez, who is assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four, which is deployed to Rota.

The camouflage pattern is what most sailors told the Navy they wanted. Last year, the Navy surveyed 40,000 sailors and sought the help of an organizational psychologist to find out what sailors would like best.

Later this year, commands and ships throughout the Navy will each select about 60 people to try out the uniforms. Naval Station Rota, Spain, and Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan, will be the two overseas locations. Rota will begin testing the uniforms in December, said Lt. Allie Freeman, base spokeswoman.

The new working uniform will replace the utilities, wash khaki, coveralls, woodland green, aviation green, winter working blue and tropical working uniforms. The Navy will roll out the proposed year-round service uniforms for enlisted sailors before the end of the year.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mail.estripes.osd.mil



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"...security comes from within...and the security of all men is founded upon the security of the individual."

-M. Hall

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Photo illustrations courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Proposed uniforms

The Navy introduced proposed new working uniforms for all ranks and rates Monday aboard the USS *Two Jims* in Norfolk, Va. The uniforms, which come in four designs, will be tested by commands worldwide this winter. The designs come in navy blue and ship-deck gray and are similar to the battle dress uniforms worn by the other services. The proposed uniforms come with either a digital or woodland pattern.

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Grizzly death avoided

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Escaping an out-of-state death sentence, two "problem" grizzly bears have arrived at the San Francisco Zoo after a riding in the bed of a Chevy pickup truck on a nearly 48-hour road trip from Montana.

Enclosed in an igloo-shaped metal crate with several holes just big enough to grab snout-fles of fresh air along the way, the cross-country trip was bearable for the two 18-month-old sister grizzlies, considering their alternative.

The bears were scheduled to be euthanized by authorities in Montana after becoming too aggressive in the wild toward people.

Dry fraternity houses

CO FORT COLLINS — Beer and liquor can no longer run free at any fraternity house at Colorado State University.

Five weeks after a student drank himself to death inside the Sigma Psi fraternity, the eight houses to allow booze have gone dry.

The new policy, set forth by Greek leaders, was announced after Samantha Spady died Sept. 4 of alcohol poisoning.

Greek Affairs Director Mark Koepsel said he welcomed the change with cautious optimism.

Woman turns 107

FL TAMPA — She wore clip-on earrings that matched her gray-blue dress. On her lap she clutched her black purse, the same one she slips under her pillow each night.

Asked about her life, instead of saying "Mind your own business," she barked, "Mind your own age."

Lola Norton, sassy and set in her ways, recently celebrated her 107th birthday. Westshore Senior Center threw a birthday bash for the Tampa resident, who wore a plastic tiara declaring her the Birthday Queen.

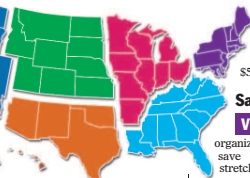
Norton is hard of hearing, takes blood pressure, medication, and uses a walker. But she still beats a drum during the center's music hour, sways to music and feeds herself.

Brain harvesting flap

ME PORTLAND — A Gorham couple's claim that their dead son's entire brain was donated to a research laboratory in Maryland without their consent points to a lack of oversight of brain harvesting at the state Medical Examiner's Office, according to the Maine Sunday Telegram.

The newspaper said its investigation found that 31 of 99 brains that were shipped from Maine to the Stanley Medical Research Institute in Bethesda, Md., from 1999 to 2003 lacked consent forms that would provide written proof that family members authorized the donations.

The brain harvesting was coordinated by Matthew Cyr, who was then the state's funeral inspector. The Telegram said the Stanley Institute paid \$1,000 to \$2,000 for each brain he sent there, and that records show that he collected more than \$150,000 from the laboratory during the four-year period.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Better pay for teachers

HI HONOLULU — The president of the union representing Hawaii public school teachers says he wants the most experienced teachers to eventually be paid \$100,000 a year. Roger Takabayashi said he would like to see salaries of \$45,000 a year for starting teachers and an average salary of \$60,000. Teachers now start at \$36,486, average \$42,768 and top out at \$66,203.

Machinists end strike

MO ST. LOUIS — Five dozen St. Louis-area auto dealers approved a three-year contract with machinists. The agreement ended a nearly 11-week strike that largely halted work in service departments at affected dealerships. Some 1,300 mechanics, technicians, body-shop workers and other service-department employees were expected to return to work.

Tap water tastes bad

MT BILLINGS — Residents in seven tiny central Montana towns are banding together to rid their tap water of sodium, minerals and other sources of bad taste. The communities formed the Central Montana Regional Water Authority this fall. They hope to



A colorful view

A rainbow shines briefly above the steeple of the Metropolitan United Methodist Church in the Harlem Park neighborhood of Baltimore after a cold front swept through the region.

drill thousands of feet deep to find better water supplies and build 220 miles of pipeline at a cost of up to \$50 million.

Saving trails

VT FAYSTON — Two nonprofit trail organizations are fighting to save a remote but prized stretch of trail that state environmental officials feel need to be moved because it is too close to a wetland.

The Catamount Trail Association and the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers have filed separate appeals to a 2003 District 5 Environmental Commission ruling that found the trail in the Phen Basin does not comply with the state's land-use control law, Act 250.

In the most recent hearing before the Vermont Environmental Board, the Catamount Trail Association, which maintains an interstate cross-country ski trail network, argued the District 5 ruling was unfair because it would be required to move 100 feet of trail.

The Phen Basin is a 2,695-acre tract of state-owned land in Fayston.

Debate canceled

OR PORTLAND — The League of Women Voters of Lane County canceled the only scheduled debate among the three candidates for Oregon secretary of state. Rep. Betsy Chese, a Republican, had disputed rules that allowed candidates to question each other. Then incumbent Bill Bradbury, a Democrat, said he wouldn't attend unless Close did. The candidates, including Libertarian Richard Morley, haven't faced one another in a public forum.

Prison too crowded

PA READING — Berks County Prison is too crowded and no longer has room to house illegal immigrants as part of a federal program that has put more than \$11.5 million into county coffers in the past five years, the warden said. Warden George A. Wagner said he wants the 104 illegal immigrants out of the prison immediately because the prison — which was built for 190 inmates — now houses 1,250.

Two of the three county commissioners support Wagner's plan. Commissioner Judith L. Schwank, a Democrat, and Mark C. Scott, a Republican, agree that the revenue which peaked at nearly \$3 million in 2000 — is helpful. But they said prison safety is more important.

Apartments burned

TX LAREDO — A dozen apartments were burned by assailants who attacked two stone masons helping to build the dwellings, say authorities.

The weekend attack occurred in an upscale neighborhood, where the workers were bound with duct tape and plastic ties, then blindfolded.

Blazes were set in two sections of the Tuscany Apartments complex, which has 22 buildings and 100 apartments. The fires burned for about two hours and damaged a dozen apartments that were nearly finished, officials said.



High-flying canine

Todd Duncan watches as K2 goes after a Frisbee in the Georgia State Frisbee Dog Championships at Dellinger Park in Cartersville, Ga.



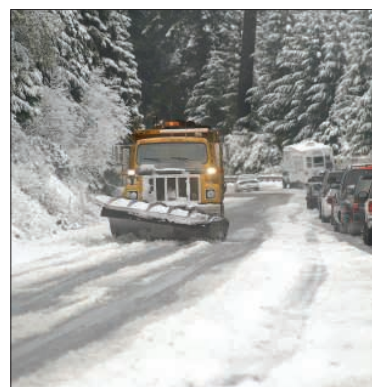
Up, up and away

Hot air balloon pilot Bob McGuire sends his beanbag soaring toward the target during the final race of The Great Mississippi River Balloon Race in Natchez, Miss.



Relaxing in the sun

Sea kayaks lie unused on a West, Fla., beach, while a handful of visitors enjoy the subtropical sun and ocean.



Early winter

A wet, heavy snowfall slows traffic on Highway 140 West of Klamath Falls, Ore.



Getting physical

Camille Hoang, 9, lifts the arm on a huge water pump, one of several physical activities at the Chicago Children's Museum that get kids moving while helping them learn.



Menagerie of colors

Amanda Mathe of Corapolis, Pa., walks through a 3-D maze during a visit to Kennywood Park's Fright Nights in West Mifflin, Pa.

Firefighters save dog

PA NEW CUMBERLAND — Marshall, a Labrador retriever, is none the worse for wear after surviving a house fire — with the help of two firefighters who performed CPR.

The dog was overcome and stopped breathing when a kitchen fire broke out at the home of his owners, George and Katherine Kabusk, who were away on vacation. Neighbors had been looking after the young chocolate Lab.

Two firefighters who were going through the Cumberland County house looking for possible victims stumbled on the dog's limp body on the second floor and carried him outside.

New Cumberland firefighter Jason Pooler gave Marshall mouth-to-snout resuscitation while Lemoyne firefighter Kenneth Mose pushed on the dog's chest to pump the heart. Together, they revived the pooch.

After an ambulance crew gave Marshall oxygen, Marshall was whisked to a veterinarian for a checkup. He was back before firefighters finished rolling up their hose.

Diocese bankruptcy

IA DAVENPORT — The bishop for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Davenport says the diocese could declare bankruptcy if claimants in sexual abuse lawsuits don't accept a settlement or if the court doesn't delay the trials. Bishop William Frankin says the 40 claims relating to sexual abuse by priests exceed the assets of the diocese. The diocese is seeking a four-month delay for the trials, scheduled to begin Nov. 1.

Flu vaccine lottery

NJ BLOOMFIELD — Officials scrapped plans for an influenza clinic and plan to register people for a lottery to determine who receives the community's 300 remaining vaccines.

Trevor Weigle, the township's health director, said officials hope the public sees this as "the most fair and equitable way to do this." The town ordered 1,000 doses and received less than half.

No charges in wife's death

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Prosecutors dropped charges against a man accused of killing his wife after a daylong excursion on their personal watercraft, and he was released Monday night.

Prosecutor Alex "Bud" McMahon said in court that the investigation of Jennifer Easterling's death was continuing; he refused further comment.

Corbin Easterling, 35, was arrested Thursday after an autopsy revealed his 34-year-old wife had been assaulted. Easterling, appearing disheveled and in a wheelchair for a foot injury, said nothing in court and did not respond to reporters' questions.

"On Tuesday, his wife died. On Thursday, he was arrested. Today, he was released," defense lawyer Vincent Maher said. "It's been a roller coaster."

Whale staying put

MA PORTLAND — Whale experts hope that playful Poco, like most summer visitors to the Maine coast, will head for

home. But after spending the summer frolicking with boaters and divers, the young beluga whale shows no sign of exiting the region. After being seen near the South Portland waterfront Oct. 10, he turned up four days later off Provincetown, Mass., and was spotted Monday off Gloucester, Mass.

Whale experts and federal and state officials who have been tracking Poco all summer want him to turn north toward his natural home in the Arctic waters off Canada.

Grouse petitions

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Environmentalists asking for federal protection of the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse say the bird is in danger of becoming extinct, in part because its native habitat across the West is being lost to livestock grazing and agriculture.

In a petition filed Oct. 14, a coalition of environmentalists asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the grouse under the Endangered Species Act.

The groups, led by Santa Fe-based Forest Guardians, argue that what was once the most abundant gallinaceous bird in the Intermountain West has been reduced to a population of less than 60,000. Gallinaceous birds nest on the ground and include turkeys, chickens and pheasants.

"Only two states have sizable populations, and both of them face very serious threats," said Rana Banerjee, a program assistant with the Forest Guardians' Endangered Species Act program.

Phony voter registration

OH JORDAN — Elections officials knew something was wrong when they got voter registration cards for Mary Poppins, Dick Tracy, Michael Jordan and George Foreman.

They notified the Defiance County sheriff, who arrested Chad Staton on Monday on a felony charge of submitting phony voter registration forms. Investigators also were looking into allegations that he was paid with cocaine in exchange for his efforts.

Staton, 22, had fraudulently filled out more than 100 voter registrations. Sheriff David Weistrick said.

"Staton was to be paid for each registration form that he could get citizens to fill out," the sheriff said.

"However, Staton himself did not out the registrations and returned them to the woman who hired him from Toledo."

TV distress signal

OR CORVALLIS — Chris van Rossman's television came with a video recorder, DVD player and CD player — plus a hidden feature that had a rescue team beating a path to his door.

On the night of Oct. 2, the TV began emitting the international distress signal — the 121.5 megahertz beam emitted by crashed airplanes and sinking boats.

The signal was picked up by a satellite, relayed to an Air Force base in Virginia, then to the Civil Air Patrol, then to officials in Oregon. Most signals are false alarms, but they're all checked out, and soon, men in Air Force uniforms, a police officer and Mike Banerjee, a Benton County Search and Rescue deputy, were at van Rossman's apartment door.

Stories and photos from wire reports

FACES

Letterman to appear on 'Regis and Kelly'

David Letterman, who infrequently appears on any one show but his own, will make a guest appearance next month on "Live With Regis and Kelly."

Letterman, host of CBS' "Late Show," will appear on Nov. 8, the syndicated morning talk show said Tuesday.

"I think it's nice that he visits our show once every 10 years," co-host Regis Philbin said. "But I'm very pleased."

About their friendship, Philbin says, "that's the problem. We're great friends when I go on his show and then I leave and I don't hear from him. But I'm going to settle that on my home ground."

In anticipation of the event, "Live," with co-host Kelly Ripa, has released its own Top Ten list, with reasons why Letterman is appearing on the show. Among them: "Thinks Kelly is hot" and "Wants to return Regis' copy of 'Duce Bigalow' in person."



Letterman

Malden honored for life's work

Karl Malden, the gruff, fatherly character actor who won an Academy Award for "A Streetcar Named Desire," will receive a special honor from The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Connecticut for his lifetime of stage work.

Malden, 92, will join previous honorees including Jason Robards, Brian Dennehy, Zoe Caldwell, Edward Albee and August Wilson when he collects the award at a Beverly Hills luncheon on Nov. 11.

The Monte Cristo Award is named after O'Neill's boyhood home in Connecticut, the Monte Cristo cottage, which was the setting for the dramas "Long Day's Journey Into Night" and "Ah, Wilderness!"

"How fortunate can you get?" Malden said Monday. "O'Neill was one of the top writers in the country. You couldn't get any luckier than to be in one of his plays. I was in one of them — 'Desire Under the Elms.' It's a memorable part of my career."

Connery loses diplomat status

Sean Connery says Panama's decision to revoke his diplomatic passport has unleashed a wave of unfair criticism on the Internet and in newspapers around the world.

In a letter to Foreign Secretary Samuel Lewis Navarro, published in the newspaper La Estrella de Panama on Monday, Connery said reports about his canceled passport appeared worldwide and "have been hurtful and vigorous."

On Oct. 1, Panama's government canceled diplomatic passports issued by then-President Mireya Moscoso to the Scottish actor, who gained fame as agent 007 in James Bond films, and 120 other "artists, businessmen, politicians and other people on account of them being instrumental promoters of culture, health, business, tourism or athletics."

The cancellations are part of an effort to clean up and update the Foreign Relation Department's files ordered by President Martin Torrijos, who took office Sept. 1.

Shaq's big rides

Shaquille O'Neal loves cars. So much so, that he'll do anything to fit inside. O'Neal shipped dozens of his vehicles — he reportedly has 44 — to Florida after leaving the Los Angeles Lakers, including his 2003 Rolls-Royce with 24-inch "Superman" wheels, his 2004 H2 Hummer with a machine gun, a Man of Steel logo and an armored Ford Crown Victoria.

The stable of cars also includes a Mercedes-Benz CLK Cabriolet that he customized to look like the sports car Mercedes SL55. It was too small to accommodate his huge frame, he told Celebrity Car magazine.

"Shaquille O'Neal may have to modify his vehicles to make them fit, but he's on the cutting edge of a customization trend that's sweeping the auto industry," said Tom DuPont, publisher of Celebrity Car parent duPont Publishing.



O'Neal



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSLI/Stars and Stripes, Photo by AP

Good Charlotte has a song "We Believe," about the death of an American woman's son in Iraq and those who made the decisions to send people like her son to war.

Jukebox politics

Bands use song, celebrity to voice political, social views

Editor's note: Arts and entertainment have long converged with politics. But this year, something different is in the air — and on movie screens, in bookstores, on the radio, and everywhere else media is consumed. This is the fourth part of a six-part series.

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After watching world events unfold, after hearing of too many deaths in too many places, Good Charlotte had something to say.

The pop-punk band known for twentysomething angst said it in "We Believe" — a song about the death of an American woman's son in Iraq and those who made the decisions to send people like her boy to war.

"We're not a political band. Music is what took us away from our problems," said guitarist/songwriter Benji Madden. "But sometimes life is too heavy and it is too hard, and you need to take a look at what's going on around you."

The hardest-fought election in decades hasn't just played out on television and radio. It hasn't just been spread across the pages of glossy magazines or quick turnaround celebrity books. Musicians are powering up their guitars, sitting down at their pianos and jumping into the fray.

Musicians have long been involved in political and social movements, from Woody Guthrie to Bob Dylan and James Brown to Public Enemy and John Mellencamp. But the latest incarnation of musical activism is bleeding across an astonishing number of genres and ages, giving voice to those often mute about election-year politics.

"Usually it comes from Hollywood. This is the first time I've ever seen the music community wanting to be part of it," said Tom Calderone, MTV's executive vice president.

In the past few weeks alone, Bruce Springsteen has launched his "Vote for Change" tour, the benefit to defeat President Bush; Green Day's punk-rock opera "American Idiot," which lambasts the president, debuted at No. 1; Russell Simmons' Hip Hop Action Network has plugged in its star wattage — from Beyoncé to P. Diddy to Will Smith — to register voters; and Travis Tritt, a Republican, and Mellencamp, a Democrat, have paired on "What Say You," a duet calling for political tolerance.

"I've always stood back from partisan politics. ... I felt that was the best way to go. I've done that for 20 years," Springsteen said. But "In this particular election the decision is so clear, and the potential result so important to the country, that myself, along with a lot of other musicians

and artists, felt democracy in the end is something you do." Simmons said the involvement by musicians and performers in this political year is notable compared with other recent elections.

Last year, he couldn't get people to do public service announcements to push voter registration. This year, he has many celebrities to choose from.

"All of them have something to say. It's in style," Simmons said.

Kevin Powell, hip-hop activist and author of "Who's Gonna Take the Weight: Manhood, Race, and Power in America," said performers, much like many Americans, are searching for answers. "It's forcing people to take sides," he said. "Because artists have the ears of so many people, there's a lot being said."

Although most of the musical and political social statements are coming from those supporting Sen. John Kerry's bid for president, there is an active musical voice supporting Republicans. Recently, Kid Rock performed at a party honoring House Speaker Dennis Hastert during the Republican National Convention. Country singer Lee Ann Womack hit the campaign trail with Bush to sing her hit "I Hope You Dance" at a rally in Ohio. The Gattin Brothers and Brooks & Dunn also performed during the convention.

Not everyone, though, believes speaking out is appropriate. "The thing that artists have to realize, and a lot of them do some don't, if you do come out and make your political feelings known, you are going to polarize people," said Tritt.

"I don't think I've ever seen the left so far left and the right so far right. There's very little middle ground right now," he said. "I am not naive enough to believe I have all the answers."

Rocker Alice Cooper has said people shouldn't vote for a presidential candidate based on what a rock star has to say. But much of the musical discussion is coming from bands and performers that target the 18- to 24-year-olds, traditionally the least likely age group to vote. Exit polls from the 2000 election found that, of 48 million potential voters under the age of 30, only about 18 million of them went to the polls.

"For a 16-year-old high school student, most of his or her life has been spent in a time of unparalleled prosperity that would quickly become a time of unthinkable danger," said Joe Levy, deputy managing editor of Rolling Stone magazine. "It's by no means a surprise to find musicians or other young artists reacting to this."

Associated Press Writer Larry McShane contributed to this report.

YOUR MONEY

As election nears, taxes are the talk of the town

Maine's proposed tax cap one of several across States

BY CLARKE CANFIELD

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine—It's hard to ignore the tax cap debate in Maine.

It's banded at water coolers, at bus stops and in coffee shops.

It's on TV and radio and in newspapers. It's the subject of arguments, counterarguments and surveys.

With passions high and polls tight, Mainers are poised to decide once and for all whether the state should adopt a California-style tax cap that limits taxes to 1 percent of a property's assessed value.

There is little disagreement that reform is warranted. Study after study ranks Maine among the highest-taxed states in the nation.

Harry Whelden, an 80-year-old retiree from Orono, agrees with critics who say a tax cap on the Nov. 2 ballot will gut municipal and school budgets and devastate local services. How could it not? But he also agrees with those who say tax relief is imperative; Whelden's taxes have more than tripled to \$3,600 a year since his retirement 25 years ago.

So even though he considers the tax cap an unreasonable approach, Whelden will vote for it because it's the only option out there

and he thinks a message needs to be sent to legislators and town officials.

"It's very polarized. Either you favor it or don't, and people are very adamant about it," Whelden said.

Maine's tax cap proposal is the most sweeping of the half dozen or more property-tax-related referendums on ballots across the country.

In Washington state, voters will decide whether to allow video gambling with revenues earmarked to reduce state property taxes.

Oklahoma and New Mexico have referendums that would give property tax exemptions for war veterans.

In Texas, Houston residents will have two local revenue-cap referendums to choose from. Other referendums are up in Indiana, Wyoming and Arkansas.

Peter Sepp from the National Taxpayers' Union in Alexandria, Va., said it's no surprise that voters are seeking relief from property taxes.

Property tax collections nationwide have risen more than 30 percent over the past five years, from \$225.7 billion in 1998 to \$297.2 billion in 2003, according to census figures. Sepp said homeowners feel overwhelmed and powerless against property taxes.

"In the midst of an economic slowdown, it's easier for people to adjust to sales and income taxes because they're making less and spending less," he said. "Property tax (increases) have come at a time when people have virtually no way of coping with them—except by moving."

In Maine, the referendum championed by tax activist Carol Paley would cap taxes at \$10 per \$1,000 of a property's value and limit increases in value to 2 percent as long as the property stays in the family.

Paley, a 64-year-old Topsham bookkeeper, spearheaded the citizen initiative that put the question on the ballot.

Cap proponents claim taxes are driving people from their homes and forcing them to choose between paying taxes or paying for such things as medication or heating oil. With property values rising particularly fast in southern and coastal Maine, many homeowners have seen their taxes double or triple in recent years.

But opponents say the cap takes away the state's ability to raise revenue to fund schools and social services.

Cities and towns say layoffs and service cuts are inevitable.

In Portland, Maine's largest



Leslie Hunt, 47, of Brunswick, Maine, shown outside her home with dog Luna, plans to vote against a property tax cap proposal. She believes the cap would diminish the quality of life for everybody. Mainers go to the polls on election day to decide whether the state should adopt a cap that limits taxes to 1 percent of a property's assessed value.

city, officials say the tax cap would force them to lay off more than 900 municipal and school employees, while closing three elementary schools, a middle school, one of the city's two high schools and all schools on the city's islands.

Wherever the truth lies, the issue has captured people's attention.

David Stuart, 71, of Yarmouth, can hardly walk down the street without someone bringing it up.

Stuart, a retired pipefitter on a fixed income, said he supports the cap because elected officials have done nothing.

"Every politician in the state has promised to do something about outrageous spending and taxes," he said. "And they're all lies."

But Leslie Hunt, 47, of Brunswick, said there is little doubt the cap would diminish the quality of life for everybody. It would cut into schools, fire and police departments and other agencies that serve the public good.

"This is a bad solution," said Hunt, who has two children in Brunswick schools. "It's not the way to fix the problem. It's too drastic. I have to think there's a better way."

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week				
High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg
10,333.29	9,697.72	Dow Jones Industrials	9,697.72	-58.79
3,389.29	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,345.34	-37.17
3,202.88	2,423.26	Dow Jones Utilities	2,999.75	-1.68
6,700.72	6,072.25	NYSE Composite	6,072.25	-1.68
1,291.85	1,014.06	AMEX Index	1,286.55	+1.57
1,759.82	1,759.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,759.82	+1.57
1,163.23	1,018.32	S&P 500	1,018.32	-10.79
618.4	528.13	S&P MidCap	528.13	-4.29
696.42	583.88	Russell 2000	566.67	-2.36
11,371.14	9,596.89	DJ Wholesale 5000	10,796.80	-58.87

NYSE				
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Name	Vol	Last	Chg	
Yankee	71,989	1.38	+1.38	
Marathon	1,119	24.5	-2.00	
Lucent	27,596	22.55	+1.46	
Amgen	18,659	18.58	-2.17	
United Therapeutics	21,813	12.18	+1.13	
Smith Barney	21,814	66.58	-4.88	
EMC Corp	20,669	12.25	+1.11	
Genzyme	19,872	12.83	+4.00	
Pfizer	20,756	29.88	-1.00	
Amgen	18,659	18.58	-2.17	

AMEX				
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Name	Vol	Last	Chg	
United Therapeutics	21,813	12.18	+1.13	
Smith Barney	21,814	66.58	-4.88	
EMC Corp	20,669	12.25	+1.11	
Genzyme	19,872	12.83	+4.00	
Pfizer	20,756	29.88	-1.00	
Amgen	18,659	18.58	-2.17	

NASDAQ				
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Name	Vol	Last	Chg	
Intel	94,638	26.88	+1.31	
Microsoft	54,643	31.18	+1.17	
Cisco	49,858	18.78	+0.81	
Oracle	47,501	12.31	-1.11	
Yahoo	47,501	12.31	-1.11	
Alphabet	34,641	4.88	+0.01	
Applied	21,128	4.28	+0.08	

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
British pound	\$1	\$1.2033
Japanese yen (Oct. 22)	\$1	\$1.0060
South Korean won (Oct. 21)	\$1	\$1,144.00
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$1	\$3.6699
British pound	\$1	\$1.0028
Canada (Dollar)	\$1	\$1.2500
Denmark (Krone)	\$1	\$5.57
Euro (Euro)	\$1	\$0.7920
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1	\$1.2518
Hungary (Forint)	\$1	\$1.7887
India (Rupee)	\$1	\$19.71
Israel (Shekel)	\$1	\$4.4950
Japan (Yen)	\$1	\$109.16
Kuwait (Dinar)	\$1	\$0.2946
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$1	\$1.3600
Philippines (Peso)	\$1	\$53.37
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$1	\$1.6733
Singapore (Dollar)	\$1	\$1.4477
South Korea (Won)	\$1	\$1,147.47
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1	\$1.1818
Thailand (Baht)	\$1	\$41.30

Commercial rates		
British pound	\$1	\$1.0028
Canada (Dollar)	\$1	\$1.2500
Denmark (Krone)	\$1	\$5.57
Euro (Euro)	\$1	\$0.7920
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1	\$1.2518
Hungary (Forint)	\$1	\$1.7887
India (Rupee)	\$1	\$19.71
Israel (Shekel)	\$1	\$4.4950
Japan (Yen)	\$1	\$109.16
Kuwait (Dinar)	\$1	\$0.2946
Malaysia (Ringgit)	\$1	\$1.3600
Philippines (Peso)	\$1	\$53.37
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$1	\$1.6733
Singapore (Dollar)	\$1	\$1.4477
South Korea (Won)	\$1	\$1,147.47
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1	\$1.1818
Thailand (Baht)	\$1	\$41.30

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local money banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference only. Buying currency. All figures are foreign exchange rates to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close		
Gold	\$424.95	
Silver	\$7.27	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate		
Discount rate	2.75	
90-day bank market rate	4.12	
3-month bill	1.82	
30-year bond	5.12	
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America		

Cent and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Sites with pension info

BY CHUCK MYERS
Knight Rider/Tribune

The fate of a government or private-sector pension plan is a prominent issue in the presidential campaign. Here are some good places on the Web to learn about pensions:

www.benefitlink.com — features range of pension-related resources from news developments to Q&A columns;

www.pbgc.gov — information from a government agency

signed to protect retirement pension income;

www.pensionplanners.com — contains pension resources and information on other retirement-income topics;

www.quicken.com/cms/viewers/article/retirement/18308 — good explainer on basics of pension plan advantages and eligibility; and

www.dol.gov/dol/topic/retirement/consumerinflation.htm — covers a range of subjects including pension pitfalls.

Horoscope

This is the last full day of the Libran sun, as the sun goes into Scorpio a bit early this year. In the past weeks, life has balanced out, problems have been sorted through, and solutions have occurred rather organically. The holistic approach to living has taught us that it's important to depend on one another — no person is an island.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(October 21) You've got an optimistic feeling about this year, and you're totally right! A lucky break in the next seven weeks takes you to the next level in your finances. If you manage your money well, you experience greater freedom and use this to go on a grand adventure in January. Faithful loved ones are your real joy. Love signs are Sagittarius and Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Small shifts make a big difference over time. Honor the 80/20 rule at work — 20 percent of your activities contribute to 80 percent of your work. So do the important 20 percent, cover your bases, and let the busywork slide.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You are skeptical of anything that looks too easy, but don't be. Not every gift from the universe requires a big effort on your behalf. Did you ever stop and think that happiness might be your birthright?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Emotional complexities wrap you up in their sticky web. Show up when you feel like bailing. It's not so bad really — everyone is too busy fighting for his or her own place in the world to worry about how you're coming.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Look for something interesting in situations that on the surface seem deadly dull. You'll gain resources by connecting with the very people who on the surface seem like they've got little to offer. Romantic issues surface tonight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

The world is not out to get you, though after this morning, you'll probably

think so. The confrontational attitude that some people take with you is actually an opportunity to redefine boundaries of a relationship or terms of an agreement.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The intensity is turned up, and you'll wonder if you can handle it, emotionally, physically and financially. Of course you can, but you'll need to be gentle with yourself. The one being hardest on you is you, as usual.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Tricky situations are your specialty. There's nothing you can't figure out, and you love the challenge. In relationships, be the one to put things to the next level. Partners may lag behind unless you push them onward and upward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Sure, you're very intuitive, but it's still difficult to see what's ahead when the road winds, dips and ascends as much as it has lately. You'll have to employ your faith. Don't entertain your own skeptical thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Get your attitude in alignment, and things go smoothly. Use a pen to empty your mind to paper. This gives you much more mental space to deal skillfully with the people and situations that need your attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Under current scattered planetary influences, it's so easy to be preoccupied when you need to focus. Making sure you've got a Taurus or Aquarius on your team will help you keep things in the proper perspective.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Much of your success depends on being a good friend. Start by greeting the world with a pleasant expression on your face, laughing at people's jokes and offering to share. Before you know it, you're back in the groove.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your emotions lead you into doozy territory — but just because you feel a feeling doesn't mean you have to act on it. Try and see your impulses for what they are — a response. You always have a choice about how you'll react.

Creators Syndicate



Joyce Jilson

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



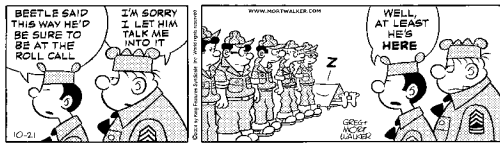
Cathy



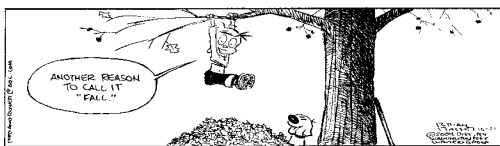
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



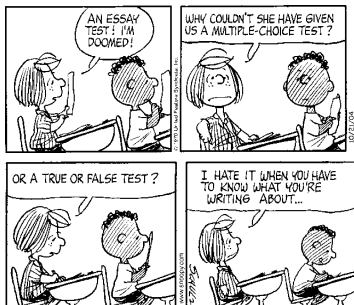
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



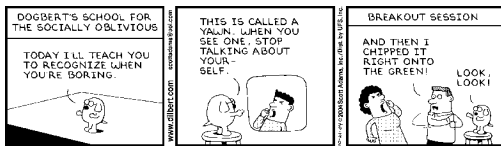
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



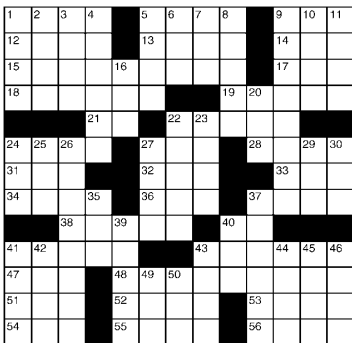
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



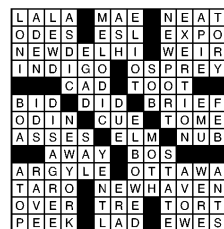
Across

- 1 Enervates
- 5 Cherished
- 12 Year-end refrain
- 13 Rival rival
- 14 Punchbowl contents, maybe
- 15 Job candidate's prelim
- 17 Playground game
- 18 Carolina river
- 19 Color workers
- 21 "Monopoly" square
- 22 Bygone Russian aristocrat
- 24 Cheese choice
- 27 Proscription
- 28 Recognize
- 31 Charged bit
- 32 Jennings' network
- 36 Bunch of bits
- 36 Spellbound
- 37 007's school
- 38 Supporter of the arts

Down

- 1 Wield shears
- 2 Top-notch
- 3 Seeger or Sampras
- 4 Heavy hammer
- 5 Host Letterman
- 6 Yalie
- 7 Gorilla
- 8 Boisterous
- 9 Worldwide computer link
- 10 Bellow
- 11 14-Across ingredients
- 16 Old Olds
- 20 Tibetan beast
- 22 Biblical tower
- 23 Never again?
- 24 Tucker's partner
- 25 Skirt expander
- 26 Crime-fighting organization
- 27 Founding
- 29 Acapulco gold
- 30 Hardly ruddy
- 35 Nosh
- 37 Passover visitor
- 40 Mess up
- 41 Apprehends
- 42 Hodgepodge
- 43 Part of N.B.
- 44 Erle's style
- 45 Toyota model
- 46 Flight component
- 49 Affirmative action?
- 50 Yank

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-21

CRYPTOQUIP

V W W A C D L R - S A C Y Z I D
W E L N I V R C I W , W A C E P P Z S Z V J
N L J C M Y C N C P L J J E P

U L U U J C M W V I Q V N Q M .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FRIARS RECORDED
AN ALBUM OF THEIR BEST HITS AND DUBBED
IT "CHANTS OF A LIFETIME."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals B

Visits may not always be welcome

Dear Abby: How many days advance notice should you give a family member before advising him that you will be coming for a visit? My nephew, "Harry," called his brother, "Milton," at 6 p.m. on a Saturday to let him know he was planning to arrive at his home the following Tuesday afternoon for a visit. (Harry rarely talks with Milton, let alone visits him.) Harry was offended when Milton didn't seem thrilled with the idea. (Milton did not say no, he said "OK.") Milton is taking care of his wife who is recovering from surgery and may have been overwhelmed at the idea of guests.

Since the world revolves around Harry, I am sure he forgot to inquire into the state of his sister-in-law's health when he called. Now Harry is refusing to visit because of what he perceived as Milton's response. I feel it is time for this old lady to say something to this self-centered little jerk. However, before I put in my 2 cents' worth, I need to

know if 36 hours is an appropriate time frame.

—Clueless in Curry Village
Dear Clueless: Harry needs to polish his social graces because he, not you, is clueless. It is never appropriate to "inform" anyone that you will be coming for a visit. The polite way to do it is to ask if a visit would be convenient, so if it is NOT convenient, the potential host has an "out."

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I experienced a random act of kindness and want to share it with you. I was driving alone from Atlanta to a small town near Greensboro, N.C. It was raining hard, and my car hydroplaned and slid off the road. A woman returning to work after lunch saw my car, stopped, and asked me if I was OK. I assured her that I was fine, but felt a little panicky about being so far from home. She calmed me down, helped me out of my car, and invited me

to sit with her in her car until help arrived.

While the police wrote up the report and the tow truck hauled my car back onto the highway, this caring lady stood next to me in the rain, keeping me dry with her umbrella.

After the police were finished, she insisted that I come to her office to catch my breath and compose myself.

Then she escorted me to a nearby car repair service where a friend of hers works, and asked him to fix the minor damage to my car. He did it immediately without charging a penny — and I was on my way within a half-hour.

Abby, I want to express the depth of my gratitude to this woman — her name is Suzanne — for her help and concern, and to her friend, Andrew, for fixing my car. They reminded me that good Samaritans still exist in this world. I will forever be ...

—Grateful in Georgia

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UPOHC	
BLAYK	
CHAWES	
RAHDLE	

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



WHEN THE SOLDIERS HAD A SNOWBALL FIGHT, IT TURNED INTO A...

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANISE VALET USEFUL KIMONO
 Answer: The popular after dinner speaker talked about — FIVE MINUTES

Lies create friction within family

Dear Annie: My husband has two sisters. "Heather" is very nice, but "Eileen" is another story. She is bossy and arrogant, and has a bad habit of talking about people behind their backs. Of course, most of what she says is not true. Recently, my husband's father had a heart attack. While he was in the hospital, my husband and I helped Heather tidy up his house because it clearly wasn't as thoroughly cleaned since his wife died three years ago. Eileen was out of town.

Annie's Mailbox



don't want to put Heather in the middle of an argument with her sister. How can we solve this problem and let Eileen know that this is not acceptable behavior?

—Burned Up

Dear Burned Up: Has Eileen had a check-up lately? It sounds as if she could be mentally ill. Her accusations border on paranoia. You cannot control how Eileen behaves, but you do not have to dignify her lies with protestations of innocence. If she says anything to your face, reply, "Eileen, it's too bad you feel you must lie about us, and we have no intention of listening to your attacks." Then leave, change the subject, ignore her, whatever works to shut her down.

Dear Annie: We've printed several letters about brides and grooms who ask for money. When I was younger, I found

cash requests for weddings and showers totally repulsive. However, my 40-something self is relieved at not having to guess what the bride wants, or worry about her returning a gift I spent way too much time selecting and buying. If something saves me time and energy, while giving the guest of honor exactly what she wants, then why not?

—Changed My Mind in Michigan

Dear Michigan: We have no objection to giving money as a gift, if that is what the guest prefers to do. It is the crass demands for money coming from the brides and grooms that are galling. There's no question that writing a check is easier, but it does seem sad when guests give money because they simply don't care enough about the couple to spend the time selecting something personal and special.

Annie's Mailbox was written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailboxcomcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

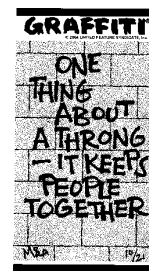
Family Circus



10-21

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"Does the weatherman get in trouble when he fibs?"



Demis the Menace



© Gary Larson The Far Side



Non Sequitur



THE FOLLGERS OF KARUS

Players, officials admit NBA lockout possible

BY DWAIN PRICE

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Now that the NHL is involved in a lockout, could the NBA be next? The Collective Bargaining Agreement signed six years ago by the NBA Players Association and NBA expires June 30. Early talks have not produced any substantial headway, leading many to brace for another lockout.

"We are having ongoing discussions with the players' association," said Russ Granik, the NBA deputy commissioner. "But no announcement is imminent regarding an agreement."

One of the main sticking points is that the owners want the players to give up six- and seven-year guaranteed contracts in favor of three- or four-year guarantees. The owners also want to increase the luxury-tax rates for high-spending teams and lower the tax threshold.

Players want to maintain the long-term guaranteed contract format, loosen the trade rules and institute lower tax and escrow thresholds.

"If the owners don't come off their high demands, I believe we might be headed for another lockout," said Billy Hunter, the union's president. "But I hope it doesn't come to that."

Players hope the sides can reach an agreement and avoid a

lockout like the one that lasted 190 days and shortened the 1998-99 season by 32 games.

"I don't think the players are willing to go through the things that we went through in 1998," Houston Rockets center Dikembe Mutombo said. "Between the league and the union, I don't think we want to put the game in jeopardy like hockey did."

But is the NBA courting yet another disaster?

"Hopefully, we can get something settled with the owners and we don't get locked out," Rockets guard Tracy McGrady said. "We're going to push for what we really want, and if they disagree, then it might come to that situation."

NHL owners locked out players last month, and the games might not resume until January — or next season. Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said he hoped the NHL would have learned from what happened to the NBA in 1998 — and the NBA learns from what's currently happening to the NHL.

"The NBA system is not perfect by a long shot," Cuban said. "The previous [CBA] deal was not perfect by a long shot, so hopefully the NHL will take the good things about it and improve on the bad things."

"I can tell you that hockey's kind of taking the bullet for us

right now."

Cuban has some words of advice for the NBA as the CBA contract winds down.

"What the NBA can learn from 1998 was that it's a whole different environment [today], and it's a whole different universe," Cuban said. "And we need to start trying to work like 1998 as a prototype. I've got some very definite opinions on how I think things should work, so we'll see how it all plays out."

If the 2005-06 season is shortened by 32 games, Mavs forward Michael Finley would lose \$6.22 million of the \$15.94 million he would earn next season.

"Nobody wants to go through what we did in 1998," Finley said. "But we've got to do what's best for us as players."

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade, who is coming off a stellar rookie season, isn't thrilled at the prospect of the owners locking out the players before the start of the 2005-06 season.

"My only thought is I hope we can come to an agreement," Wade said. "But we need to make sure we save our money and be smart, because you never know what can happen."

Rockets forward Jim Jackson hopes the players don't panic and vote for a bad deal.

"If anything happens, we as



In his second year in the NBA, Miami's Dwyane Wade already is facing a potential lockout. "I hope we can come to an agreement," he said.

players are going to have to stick together the whole duration and not for just a short period of time," Jackson said. "I don't

know what to expect right now, but we as players have to do what we've got to do to make sure that the pot is spread equally."

NHL players, coaches bidding time with no end in sight

BY LARRY LAGE

The Associated Press

DETROIT — The hum from machinery tucked under the seats at Joe Louis Arena was the only sound heard.

The ice surface was empty — and so were the stands.

Welcome to the NHL lockout.

The Detroit Red Wings were scheduled to play Carolina on Wednesday night in their home opener — always a festive event in Hockeytown — but the lockout has at the very least put that game on hold.

The NHL told its 30 teams on Tuesday to book events to fill their arenas through early December because it doesn't look like games will be played any time soon.

"We're just trying to create more flexibility for scheduling options," NHL executive vice president Bill Daly said. "Two things have to happen that aren't. We have to be negotiating and we have to be drafting a new deal. Those two elements take time and they're not going to happen overnight."

"It's frustrating. The union has not chosen to get serious about negotiations."

Ted Sackin, the NHL players' association senior director, fired back.

"It's very clear that the league and its teams are far more concerned with booking concerts than negotiating a solution to end the owners' lockout," Sackin said.

Through Tuesday, the work stoppage has lasted 34 days and one week of the season has been missed. The NHL and the NHL players' association haven't met or spoken since a negotiating session in Toronto on Sept. 9 — one week before the lockout was imposed — and no talks are scheduled.

With no end to the labor impasse in sight, some players who have not taken



The empty locker room of the Detroit Red Wings is shown at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit on Tuesday, the night the Red Wings were to play their home opener.

their talents to Europe are skating a few times a week while coaches and management evaluate prospects in North America and overseas.

A handful of Red Wings have been getting together at a rink in suburban Detroit for casual games and workouts.

Sometimes, they're really casual. Three-time Norris Trophy-winner Nicklas Lidstrom recently skated around half the ice with a few teammates while his children and other kids took shots at the other net.

"I'm hoping for a season after Christmas," Lidstrom said. "I'm optimistic."

Lidstrom won't go broke any time soon, but he's losing a ton of money each day he's not playing. The star defenseman was to make \$10 million this season, so each day he's not playing, he's losing more than \$55,000.

NHL owners insist they're losing much more.

They claim teams lost \$273 million in 2002-03 and \$224 million last season. The NHLPA doesn't believe those numbers.

The players say the NHL will only listen to deals that contain a salary cap, and the union is adamant it will never labor or accept that.

"We want to be able to negotiate with a fair team when we negotiate with a team," said Lidstrom, Detroit's union representative. "We don't want any artificial barrier."

"The teams have a certain budget. That's your salary cap."

The stalemate has led to lost jobs, or jobs about to be lost.

More than 100 employees from the NHL's central staff of about 225 have lost their positions.

The Buffalo Sabres will lay off about 25 employees by the end of November if there is no resolution.

Bars such as Andrews, known for attracting hockey fans in Detroit, are also taking a hit.

When the Red Wings play at home, owner Tom Woolsey employs about 20 people to take care of about 150 customers. He'll get by with just three workers on Wednesday because of the lockout.

"It hurts," said Woolsey, who has run his bar near the Detroit River for 24 years. "For home games, I have extra valets, cooks, bartenders and shuttle-bus drivers, but with no hockey, I don't."

As fans John Bolin and Tony Ochab — both from suburban Detroit — enjoyed beers at the bar, they had no sympathy for the NHL's player or owners.

"It's millionaires fighting millionaires," Bolin said.

Though Ochab is a union man in a blue-collar town, he said the players have to get realistic about the state of their sport.

"Unlike football, baseball and basketball, hockey just doesn't bring in a lot of TV money," Ochab said. "So, the prices for these salaries just get passed down to the fans, and a lot of us are sick of it."

NFL trade deadline brings little excitement

BY PHIL SHERIDAN

Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA — The NFL trade deadline — better known as “just another Tuesday in October” — passed Tuesday. You’re excused if you didn’t notice.

It’s not good when the most pressing question at deadline time is whether the Yankees-Red Sox game will be rained out.

There was a time when a Jerry Rice trade would have been stunning news. Unfortunately for the NFL, that time ended about six years ago.

When it happened Monday night, the deal, between Oakland and Seattle, inspired more pity than shock. The greatest wide receiver in NFL history in exchange for a conditional seventh-round pick. What’s the condition? That Rice is able to run the 40 in under six seconds? If the 42-year-old Rice didn’t get the message that it’s retirement time when the 2-4 Raiders couldn’t use him, this ought to do the trick.

A seventh-round pick is absolutely the least a team can offer in a trade. It’s the NFL equivalent of going to a yard sale and offering a quarter for some knockknack you know the person would otherwise be tossing in the garbage a few hours later.

For Jerry Rice.

But then, that’s the NFL trade deadline. Like all the other exciting transactions used to spark debate around the water cooler.

The Dallas Cowboys traded wide receiver



Receiver Antonio Bryant was traded from the Dallas Cowboys to the Cleveland Browns on Tuesday for Quincy Morgan.

er Antonio Bryant to Cleveland for wide receiver Quincy Morgan. Bryant is the guy, you may recall, who threw a towel in Dallas coach Bill Parcells’ face earlier this year. It is safe to say that his stock in the organization took a bit of a dive that day.

Come to think of it, Bryant may be the one thing an NFL team could offer that’s worth less than a conditional seventh-round draft pick.

And then there was the deal between Tampa Bay and San Diego. The Bucca-

neers sent Keenan McDardell to the Chargers for a couple of draft picks. McDardell, a Pro Bowler last year, was in the 82nd day of a holdout.

Recap: Rice, Bryant, McDardell. Maybe the NFL should change the name from “trade deadline” to “Disgruntled Wide Receiver Disposal Day.”

Compare that to trade deadlines in the other major sports. In baseball, the July 31 deadline creates all kinds of interest. Just as Phillies general manager Ed Wade how much the fans watch you do at the deadline. In the NBA, trade-deadline deals can make or break championship aspirations. Back in the old days, when there was an NHL, the deadline was important, too.

Football is different for a number of reasons. The most important is that it is, as Eagles coach Andy Reid likes to put it, “the ultimate team sport.” There’s a reason NFL teams have off-season programs and mini-camps and thousands of hours of meetings and six-week training camps. It really does take that kind of time for players to learn how to play together.

Still, the NFL is missing a great opportunity to generate even more interest in itself. That’s puzzling, since the league has done a complete 180-degree spin in that area.

Back when Rice began his brilliant career, the NFL off-season was just that. Off. The draft was important, but hardly the spectacle ESPN has turned it into in the last decade. There was no hype.

Now? The NFL has summed past even baseball as the No. 1 sport for off-season intrigue and speculation. Mock drafts and

free-agent wish lists keep the talk-radio phone lines ringing and the message boards crackling all through the winter and spring.

It is time the league gave in and moved its trade deadline. Make it the Tuesday before the season’s 14th week. That would give every team a chance to assess its roster with four games left, and allow contenders to make a key move or two to fill holes created by injuries or poor performance.

Think back to the 2000 Eagles. They were in the playoff hunt, but lost running back Duce Staley to injury. Reduced to starting Darnell Autry, Reid wound up signing Chris Warren off the street for the final few games, including the playoffs.

Wouldn’t it have been more interesting if the Eagles had to decide whether to mortgage some of their future, in the form of a draft choice, for a better back? How about the next year, when Donovan McNabb broke his ankle? The Eagles’ choices were to sign an unemployed quarterback or stick with their backups. Wouldn’t everyone be better off if a team in that position could trade for a replacement? The league’s concern that out-of-contention teams would sell off all their high-priced players is silly. The salary cap would severely limit what contending teams could add, and the difficulty of integrating new players would prevent most teams from making wholesale changes.

That risk is nothing when weighed against the risk of good teams’ being derailed by an injury to a single star player. That’s the risk the NFL accepts every season.

That, and a trade deadline less exciting than the possibility of a rained-out playoff game in baseball.

Chargers lose WR Caldwell for season

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — San Diego Chargers wide receiver Reche Caldwell will miss the rest of the season after tearing a ligament in his right knee in Sunday’s loss at Atlanta.

Caldwell is expected to have surgery in the next few days, general manager A.J. Smith said Tuesday.

Caldwell was San Diego’s leading wideout, with 18 catches for 310 yards — an average of 17.2 yards — and three scores. Tight end Antonio Gates leads the team with 37 catches for 422 yards and three scores.

The Chargers added two wide receivers on Tuesday, trading for Tampa Bay holdout Keenan McDardell and signing free agent Bobby Shaw.

The Chargers acquired McDardell for third- and sixth-round draft picks next year, plus a fifth-rounder in 2006 if McDardell goes to the Pro Bowl this year or next.

The 34-year-old wide receiver stayed away from training camp and vowed to sit out the entire season if the Bucs did not hire him a substantial raise of \$2.5 million. He was scheduled to earn under a contract that also would have paid him \$2.75 million in 2005.

Smith said McDardell will honor that contract with the Chargers.

Shaw caught five passes for 59 yards for the Buffalo Bills last year before being released last week.

NFL Briefs

The Chargers also placed defensive end Dave Ball on injured reserve following surgery for a broken toe.

Seahawks intend to throw to No. 80 Rice

KIRKLAND, Wash. — The Seahawks didn’t bring the greatest receiver in NFL history up from Oakland to use him as a decoy or to set an example in the locker room.

They want Jerry Rice, with all his glorious receiving numbers, to try to help them reach the Super Bowl this season.

“I can really envision something good happening here,” coach Mike Holmgren said Tuesday. “I brought him in here to catch passes and help us win games as a player. I want him to think about playing football.”

The 42-year-old Rice, the NFL career leader in receptions (1,524), receiving yards (22,533) and receiving touchdowns (194), joined the Seahawks on Tuesday in a deal that sent a conditional seventh-round draft choice in 2005 to Oakland.

Rice wasn’t utilized much by the Raiders this season, catching only five passes for 67 yards and no touchdowns. In a 31-3 loss to Denver on Sunday, he didn’t have a pass thrown to him. His record receptions’ streak ended at 274 in Week 2 against Buffalo.

Rice wanted out of Oakland (2-4).

Raiders owner Al Davis tried to get a deal done quickly, even if it meant getting less in return.

“It was Jerry Rice who made the decision, and we honestly tried to accommodate him the best we can,” Davis said.

Although the Seahawks will continue to go with Koren Robinson and Darrell Jackson as their starting receivers, Rice will play plenty with his new team, and Holmgren plans to use more four-receiver sets.

Rice will move from flanker, a position he has played his entire career, and where Jackson starts, to split end.

Rice will wear No. 80, which was worn by former Seahawks receiver Steve Largent from 1976-89. Largent, who went on to become a four-term U.S. congressman from Oklahoma, was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1995.

The number was retired by the team in 1995 after Largent’s induction in Canton, Ohio, and hasn’t been worn by a Seattle player since he left.

Rice asked Largent for permission to bring back the number, which Rice has worn throughout his NFL career, and received Largent’s blessing.

“When he said that, it sent chills through my body,” Rice said. “It meant the world to me. I know what he did for this team. When you think about the Seattle Seahawks, you think about Steve Largent.”

Ex-Cardinals OL Sharpe pleads guilty to felony drug charge

PHOENIX — Former Arizona Cardinals offensive lineman Luis Sharpe pleaded guilty to a felony count of possession of narcotic drugs Tuesday.

Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Mark Santana accepted the plea bargain in the scheduled Sharpe’s sentencing for Nov. 18. Sharpe, who played with the Cardinals from 1982-94, faces a minimum sentence of 2½ years in prison.

In exchange, the prosecution dropped other pending drug charges and an allegation of probation violation that could have sent Sharpe to prison for 15 years.

Sharpe, 43, was arrested April 15 by officers who reported seeing him buying drugs. The former All-Pro lineman allegedly threw a large bag of cocaine out of his car as officers moved in. Sharpe legal problems began the year after his retirement, when he was arrested on suspicion of sexual assault and resisting arrest.

Patriots put receiver Sam on injured reserve

FOXBORO, Mass. — The New England Patriots placed rookie wide receiver P.K. Sam on injured reserve Wednesday because of a groin injury.

Sam has played in two games this year for the Patriots but did not catch a pass. He was a fifth-round draft pick out of Florida State.



San Diego Chargers wide receiver Reche Caldwell (82) is taken off the field on Sunday. Caldwell tore a ligament in his knee and will miss the rest of the season.

Packers re-sign Rogers

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Linebacker Nick Rogers was re-signed Tuesday by the Green Bay Packers, who waived cornerback James Whitley.

Rogers had been waived Saturday to make room on the roster for Kelvin King, who was promoted from the practice squad to replace injured wide receiver Robert Ferguson for Sunday’s game at Detroit.

Whitley originally signed with Green Bay as a free agent last December.

The Packers added safeties Wendell Williams and David Young to the practice squad and released practice-squad cornerback Kelvin Millhouse.

McNabb finally thriving with T.O.

BY ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb began his career passing to Charles Johnson and Torrance Small, and became a star throwing to James Thrash and Todd Pinkston.

It's no surprise he's having his best season now that Terrell Owens is with the Philadelphia Eagles.

For McNabb's first five years in the NFL, he didn't have any wide receiver who caused problems for defensive coordinators or demanded double coverage. While Peyton Manning has Marvin Harrison, and Daunte Culpepper has Randy Moss, McNabb never had a top target.

Instead, he spread the ball around among a group of average receivers, reliable running back Duane Staley and Pro Bowl tight end Chad Lewis.

Owens' arrival in Philadelphia has made an immediate impact on McNabb's production, and the offense overall. A game-breaking throw each time he gets the ball, the four-time Pro Bowl wideout creates opportunities for other players even when he isn't McNabb's first or second option.

"When you have a guy like that who people have to focus on, knowing that they are going to roll some coverage over to their side, there is going to be opportunities for other guys to make plays," McNabb said.

Owens has 30 catches for 487 yards and six touchdowns in five games for the undefeated Eagles. Running back Brian Westbrook has 28 receptions, Lewis 13, Pinkston 11 and tight end L.J. Smith 10.

Owens' percentage of his team's catches (26.7) isn't among the top half-dozen in the NFL, and that sits just fine with the controversial star who was known for his attitude when he didn't get the ball enough in San Francisco.

"T.O.'s got such a great attitude. He loves to play the game. I think he helps everybody out," Eagles coach Andy Reid said.

Owens often has said he understands McNabb as the difficult task trying to please everyone in the offense.

"Donovan has to do so much and he is trying to get everyone involved," Owens said.

Last year, Thrash led the Eagles with 49 catches and Pinkston added 36. Thrash's 63 catches in 2001



Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb was good growing to marginal receivers. He's having a career year now that Terrell Owens is catching his passes.

were the most by a wideout during McNabb's first five seasons. Owens is on pace for 96 catches, 1,558 yards and 19 TDs, each of which would be a team record.

"I think this year people are seeing we are doing a lot of different things," McNabb said. "Yes, we do have T.O., and yes he's catching some balls for us, but other guys are making plays for us as well. Offensively, people know we are being aggressive this year."

Though the West Coast offense usually calls for short passes, McNabb has stretched the field with several long completions. Owens already has catches of 55, 55, 53, 45 and 44 yards. Pinkston caught a pass for 53 yards and Freddie Mitchell had a 48-yarder.

McNabb is third in the league with a passer rating of 103.5. He has thrown for 1,377 yards, nine TDs and two interceptions, and also run for two scores.

NFL statistics

AFC individual leaders

Week 6

Att	Yds	TD	Int
Manning, Ind.	171	12	1
Brady, N.E.	163	11	0
Carroll, Hou.	152	10	0
Brady, N.E.	143	8	0
Warner, N.Y.	134	11	0
Leffewich, Jack.	120	13	0
Bledsoe, Buf.	117	7	0
Green, K.C.	100	9	0

Rushers

Att	Yds	LG	TD
Martin, N.Y.	120	60	1
Browns, Ten.	126	58	0
St. Louis, Mo.	120	58	0
James, Ind.	123	54	0
Benjamin, N.Y.	120	54	0
Dillon, N.Y.	107	52	0
J. Lewis, Bal.	109	48	0
R. Johnson, Cin.	108	48	0
Droughns, Den.	78	39	1

Receivers

No	Yds	LG	TD
Ward, Pitt.	37	42	1
Masson, Ten.	33	42	1
Johnson, Hou.	33	39	1
Bennett, Ten.	31	39	1
Moulis, Buf.	31	39	1
McMillen, N.Y.	29	36	1
Harrison, Ind.	29	36	1
J. Smith, Jack.	27	36	1
Smith, Den.	27	36	1

Punters

Att	Yds	LG	TD
Lechler, Oak.	24	138	0
Smith, Ind.	24	138	0
J. Miller, N.E.	21	127	0
Smith, Ind.	21	127	0
Knorr, Den.	23	121	0
Chick, K.C.	21	119	0
Mooman, Buf.	25	109	0
Drummond, Pitt.	27	109	0
Hanson, Jack.	31	131	0

Punt returns

No	Yds	LG	TD
Sams, Bal.	16	181	1
Lewis, Jack.	8	116	0
Moss, Hou.	18	186	0
Waller, N.Y.	10	179	0
Bright, MIA.	9	99	0
Northcutt, Cinc.	14	144	0
Parkey, N.Y.	9	139	0
Weiler, S.D.-Mia.	8	72	0
Holmbeck, Cin.	9	143	0

Kickoff returns

No	Yds	LG	TD
McGee, Buf.	22	203	0
Brady, N.E.	22	210	0
Waller, N.Y.	19	208	0
Gabriel, Oak.	9	246	0
Phelps, N.Y.	11	248	0
Rhodes, Ind.	8	189	0
Holmbeck, Cin.	9	210	0
J. Carter, N.Y.	10	212	0

Scoring

TD	Touchdowns
Bettis, Pitt.	7
Waller, N.Y.	7
Martin, N.Y.	7
Graham, N.E.	5
James, Ind.	5
Tomlinson, S.D.	4
Johnson, Hou.	4
J. Lewis, Bal.	12

Kicking

PAT	FG	LG	TD
Elam, Den.	12-13	13-10	52
Dawson, Cinc.	11-11	13-11	49
J. Brown, Hou.	13-13	13-10	46
Kearney, S.D.	19-19	9-9	53
Wilkens, S.D.	11-11	13-11	53
Briley, N.Y.	12-12	9-9	53
Janikowski, Oak.	9-9	11-11	50
Graham, Cinc.	8-9	11-11	48
Reed, Pitt.	18-16	9-9	51
Anderson, Ten.	11-11	7-7	51

Team statistics

AVERAGE PER GAME	OFFENSE
Yards	384
Touchdowns	13.1
Interceptions	13.6
Penalties	15.7
Fumbles	21.0

DEFENSE

Yards	Touchdowns	Interceptions	Penalties	Fumbles
Denver	224.8	8.7	13.7	15.5
Miami	257.8	18.5	12.7	7.7
Pittsburgh	267.7	10.3	18.8	18.8
Baltimore	292.3	10.4	18.9	20.4
Buffalo	288.0	9.0	20.7	20.8
New York Jets	320.0	11.5	20.5	20.5
San Diego	324.1	10.5	21.8	21.8
Philadelphia	331.5	9.4	21.7	21.7
Cleveland	329.3	11.3	18.0	18.0
Cincinnati	282.3	10.2	18.8	18.8
Buffalo	283.0	10.3	17.6	17.6
Baltimore	264.0	10.6	15.0	15.0
Miami	243.0	6.9	17.5	17.5

Team statistics

	Yards	Rush
Denver	224.8	87.3
Miami	257.8	135.2
Pittsburgh	287.2	103.3
Baltimore	292.6	103.4
Buffalo	296.0	90.2
New York Jets	318.8	100.0
Jacksonville	320.0	115.0
Cleveland	323.3	105.2
Kansas City	330.0	126.4
New England	337.6	111.8
Oakland	339.5	138.0
Tennessee	344.0	109.7
San Diego	350.2	85.7
Houston	357.7	126.3
Cincinnati	365.2	160.4
Indianapolis	385.4	91.8

NFC individual leaders

Week 6

Att	Yds	TD	Int
Culpepper, Min.	187	13	1
McNabb, Phil.	171	12	1
Rattay, S.F.	163	11	0
Bulger, S.F.	147	10	0
Warner, N.Y.	147	10	0
Favre, G.B.	208	10	1
Warren, N.Y.	214	10	1
Aa. Brooks, N.O.	213	14	8
Testaverde, Dal.	174	10	0
Hasselbeck, Sea.	170	9	12

Rushers

Att	Yds	LG	TD
Portis, Was.	56	57	0
Barber, N.Y.-G.	36	57	0
Green, G.B.	37	45	0
Anderson, Min.	103	45	0
T. Jones, Cin.	77	41	0
Waller, G.B.	37	41	0
M. Faulk, S.F.	99	44	0
Barlow, S.F.	99	37	0
Dunn, Atl.	82	36	0
Smith, Ariz.	64	35	0

Receivers

No	Yds	LG	TD
E. Johnson, S.F.	45	48	1
Brice, S.F.	37	33	1
Horn, N.O.	38	47	1
Walker, G.B.	37	45	1
Holt, S.F.	36	47	1
Waller, G.B.	37	41	0
Clayton, T.B.	31	44	1
Colles, S.F.	30	47	1
Owens, Phil.	30	47	1
Westbrook, Phil.	23	42	1

Punters

Att	Yds	LG	TD
Maynard, Chi.	29	152	0
Lindstedt, S.F.	24	107	0
Brice, S.F.	28	122	0
Berger, N.O.	28	122	0
Hopkins, Ind.	32	149	0
Blidwell, T.B.	33	140	0
Sauerbrun, Ariz.	30	129	0
Player, Ariz.	30	129	0
Allen, S.F.	32	145	0
Rosen, Sea.	26	109	0

Punt returns

No	Yds	LG	TD
Rossom, Atl.	12	134	1
Bettie, S.F.	12	134	1
Waller, N.Y.	14	171	0
Drummond, Den.	7	61	0
Engram, Sea.	5	81	0
Waller, N.Y.	14	171	0
Chapman, G.B.	13	76	0
Colles, S.F.	12	76	0
McQuarters, Chi.	12	76	0

Kickoff returns

No	Yds	LG	TD
Cox, T.B.	13	388	0
Marley, T.B.	8	289	0
Reed, Pitt.	12	288	0
Waller, N.Y.	9	234	0
Hopkins, Ind.	15	254	0
Scobey, Ariz.	15	254	0
Waller, N.Y.	18	233	0
Morris, Sea.	18	202	0
Morton, Was.	13	223	0

Scoring

TD	Touchdowns
Alexander, Sea.	6
Moss, Min.	6
Dunn, Atl.	6
Owens, Phil.	6
Robinson, Min.	5
Waller, N.Y.	5
Barber, N.Y.-G.	4
Holt, S.F.	4
Horn, N.O.	4
Smith, Ariz.	4
Williams, Den.	4

Kicking

PAT	FG	LG	TD
Akers, Phil.	14-14	13-10	51
Carney, N.Y.	12-12	11-11	45
J. Brown, Hou.	12-12	13-10	46
Christie, N.Y.-G.	11-11	9-9	53
Wilkens, S.D.	16-16	13-11	53
Anderson, Min.	18-18	6-6	42
Feely, Atl.	14-14	7-7	25
Longwell, G.B.	17-17	6-6	53
Graham, Cinc.	20-19	7-7	24
Hall, Was.	6-6	7-7	24
T. Peterson, S.F.	9-9	6-6	27
Rackers, Ariz.	9-9	6-6	27

Team statistics

Team statistics	
AVERAGE PER GAME	
OFFENSE	
Yards	384
Touchdowns	13.1
Interceptions	13.6
Penalties	15.7
Fumbles	21.0

DEFENSE

Yards	Touchdowns	Interceptions	Penalties	Fumbles
Minnesota	367.4	24.4	25.2	25.2
Green Bay	387.7	10.5	17.7	17.7
St. Louis	360.0	11.7	26.3	26.3
Philadelphia	366.0	10.6	26.0	26.0
New York Giants	363.1	14.3	22.0	22.0
Seattle	361.1	10.2	23.4	23.4
Dallas	354.0	10.2	25.2	25.2
San Francisco	342.0	10.2	21.8	21.8
New England	340.0	10.2	21.8	21.8
Atlanta	302.8	14.7	15.7	15.7
Tampa Bay	291.3	7.5	21.4	21.4
Chicago	283.6	12.2	16.0	16.0
Washington	280.0	11.5	16.1	16.1
Arizona	272.0	10.6	16.4	16.4
Detroit	260.0	7.4	19.5	19.5

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HOME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

Mead is digging Saints' streak

Aviano unbeaten in ASIL volleyball with senior hitter

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

The Aviano girls volleyball team hasn't lost a game on the peninsula in four seasons—a streak that coincides with senior outside hitter Ashley Mead's time as a member of the Saints.

"Ashley is the best all-around player I've ever had," coach Hans Hillestad said. "I keep lots of stats, but the big thing about Ashley is that she's never lost an [American Schools in Italy League] game."

Her progress toward that streak, Mead said, began when she was a very green eighth-grader.

"Hans recruited me and put me on an Italian club team," said Mead, daughter of Aviano cross-country and tennis coach Greg Mead. "That's where I learned the basics of volleyball."

From there, she said, she honed her game at summer camps at the University of Florida. The process worked to perfection.

"She's a great offensive player—she gets the blocks and hits," Hans Hillestad said, "but she also plays great defense. She's a solid, all-around player."

And Mead, who likes her present position better than all the others she has played, said there are things other than the power game that appeal to her.

"I like the rhythm of the game," she said, "how everything flows together—how all six players come together to play the point."

And individually?

"I like serving," she said. "I also like digging and blocking."

Hillestad is reluctant to cite regular-season statistics, saying he doesn't believe they paint a true picture of his team's abilities.

But Mead recalled a particular block two years ago that proved to her she was ready to run with the varsity.

"It was in the championship game of the ASIL regional," she said. "I made my first block. Although I've made lots of them since, that gave me the confidence that I could be a starter."



Photo courtesy: Hans Hillestad

Aviano senior outside hitter Ashley Mead digs out a ball during a recent practice. Aviano has not lost a game in the American Schools in Italy League during Mead's four years on the team.

Aviano has won the past three ME Regionals, but the Saints won't get a chance to defend their title this season: DODDS-Europe has scrubbed the regional tournaments, opting to send every school to the European tournaments Nov. 4-6 in the Kaiserslautern Military Community in Germany.

"I'm a little disappointed that our little Mediterranean tournament was canceled," Mead said. "We all played each other during the regular season and really got to know each other. It was like a family."

That family got larger and tougher this sea-

son for Aviano, which has made the European finals twice and the semifinals once during Mead's tenure.

This season, Aviano will play for the European Division II crown, and the Saints will get a taste of things to come this weekend when they host Vileck, Patch and Naples of D-2.

Can the Saints do in Division II what they just missed in Division III the past three seasons?

"It's hard to say," Mead said, "but our team has a lot of talent."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryanr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

This week's schedule

Cross country

Saturday
At Aviano-Milan, Naples, Patch, Vicenza, Vileck.
At American Overseas School of Rome-Livorno, Marymount, Sigonella.
At Frankfurt International School-Bamberg, Kaiserslautern, Würzburg.
At Mannheim-Baumholder, Balck Forest Academy, Hanau, Heidelberg.
At Merwint-Hill-Alcobury, Lakenheath, London Central, all U.K. private schools.
At St. John's-AFNORTH, Brussels, International School of Brussels, SHAPE, Wiesbaden-Bitburg, Hohenfels, Ramstein.

Football

Saturday
Division I-Lakehurst (1-3) at Wiesbaden (4-1, 3-1); Würzburg (2-3, 2-2) at Heidelberg (3-4, 4-2); Kaiserslautern (1-4, 1-3) at Ramstein (2-3, 1-3).
Division II quarterfinals-Patch (2-3) at International School of Brussels (5-0); Vileck (2-3) at SHAPE (4-1); Bitburg (2-3) at Hanau (5-2); London Central (2-3) at Naples (4-1).
Division III quarterfinals-Bamberg (5-0) at Merwint (5-0); Wiesbaden-Bitburg (3-2) at Sigonella (3-2); AFNORTH (2-3) at Augsburg (5-0); Rota (5-2) at Baumholder (4-1).

Tennis

Saturday
Nonconference-London Central at Lakenheath; Vileck at Bamberg.
Division I-Brampton at Heidelberg; Würzburg at Wiesbaden; International School of Brussels at Kaiserslautern.
Division II-Bitburg at Patch; SHAPE at AFNORTH; Hanau at Mannheim.
Division III-AFNORTH vs. London Central at Lakenheath; Hohenfels at Bamberg; Baumholder at Brussels.

Volleyball

At Aviano-Naples, Patch, Vileck.
At Baumholder-Alcobury, Augsburg, FIS-AFNORTH, Lakenheath, Würzburg.
At Gießen-Bamberg, London Central, Merwint Hill.
At Milan-Marymount.
At Ramstein-Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern.
At Wiesbaden-Bitburg, Brussels, Hohenfels.

Game of the week

What: European Division III football quarterfinals.
Who: Bamberg (2-3) at Merwint Hill (5-0).

Where: 1 p.m. Saturday.
Where else: Athletic field.

What's at stake: Semifinal berth in European playoffs.

Undefeated Merwint Hill, champion of Division III-A, enters its first playoff game in school history against a Bamberg team that finally is firing on all cylinders, according to assistant coach Don Tusha.

We got our senior quarterback (Chris Starvi) back a couple of weeks ago and running back Matt Lozada back from a separated shoulder," Tusha said Tuesday. "That allowed us to move Marvin Gholston back to wide receiver where he belongs."

According to Tusha, Starvi is 13-for-19 for 200 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions in Bamberg's last two games, both wins.

Running back Tim Battie rushed for 200 yards, three touchdowns and a victory at Hohenfels. He and C.J. Battie are also starting in the playoffs.

Merwint Hill coach Pete Resnick, who has coached the Saints since the school opened in 1996, knows his team is the new, not proud, 9-0.

But Resnick—who played a team with as much talent, speed, and size," he said. "They have 11 seniors on our team. We feel when we have four or five seniors, we can win."

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Joseph Casey

Football

Rota High School

Casey, a 6-foot, 180-pound running back, got off to a good start on his way to a 309-yard, five-touchdown day in Saturday's 40-14 victory over visiting Alcobury.

According to his coach, Ben Anderson, Casey broke a 52-yard TD run on Rota's first play from scrimmage and followed that with a 60-yard scoring burst on the Admirals' next possession.

When the dust had settled, Casey, who also



scored on a 35-yard punt return, had topped his five-game season stats to 922 yards on 74 carries, with 11 TDs in the Rota home game of his four-year Lasta career.

"Joseph has a unique combination of speed and strength," Rota coach Ben Anderson stated in an e-mail. "He prefers to run between the tackles but does have the speed to break it to the outside."

Joseph's next carries will come Saturday at Baumholder, where the Ill-D champs in a European D-3 quarterfinal game.

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

Erin Gray

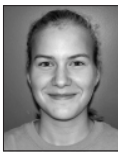
Cross country

Würzburg High School

On Saturday, Gray, a junior, won for the fifth time in five races this season, covering Vileck's 5,000-meter layout in 20 minutes, 19 seconds.

The results should come as no surprise, according to coach Miles Johnson, when you look at the hard work Gray has invested in her sport.

"She always puts in her best effort, day in and day out," Johnson wrote in an e-mail. The key, however, has been her maturity as a runner. She's been very consistent



every Saturday, no matter what the terrain or course difficulty."

For the second time this season, Gray beat Patch's Maggie Redman and Jessica Russell to put herself in the favorites' group for the European championship at Heidelberg on Oct. 24.

With defending champion Charity Williams of Naples out for the season, Gray should be among the favorites in Johnson's view.

But with Redman and Russell, along with Naples' Zarah Yousoufi, Kaiserslautern's Anna Koj and Hruska and Wiesbaden's Ashley Spencer, "she will have a stiff challenge," Johnson said.

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

Mariners look to Hargrove for turnaround

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Mike Hargrove was hired Wednesday to manage the Seattle Mariners and turn around the team after its worst season since 1983.

MLB briefs

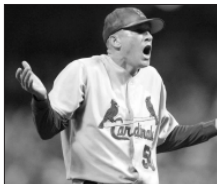
"He has a tremendous resume and is battle-tested in every facet of leading a major league club," Mariners general manager Bill Bavasi said.

Hargrove replaces Bob Melvin, who was fired Oct. 10, a day after Seattle ended the season at 63-99. That was the third-worst record in the majors and the Mariners' worst since going 60-102 in 1983.

All of Melvin's coaches except pitching coach Bryan Price were fired, too.

Hargrove had been an assistant to Indians GM Mark Shapiro. He has a career major league managerial record of 996-963, including 721-591 with the Indians from 1991-99.

He led the Indians to five consecutive Central Division titles in 1995-99, and World Series appearances in 1995 and 1997. He managed Baltimore from



St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Julian Taveaz was fined \$10,000 by Major League Baseball for throwing a pitch over the head of Houston's Jeff Bagwell in Game 4.

2000-03.

Hargrove was fired by both the Indians and the Orioles, with Baltimore letting him go after its 91-loss season 2003.

MLB fines Cardinals' Taveaz \$10,000

ST. LOUIS — Cardinals reliever Julian Taveaz was fined \$10,000 by the commissioner's office Tuesday for throwing a pitch

over the head of Houston's Jeff Bagwell in Game 4 of the NL championship series.

Taveaz plans to have the players' union file an appeal on his behalf Wednesday. He is represented by agent Scott Boras.

Taveaz, who has a history of disciplinary penalties, got himself into all sorts of trouble in Sunday's game. The St. Louis righty broke his left hand during a dugout tantrum, though the Cardinals hope he still can pitch in the NLCS.

The excitable Taveaz gave up a go-ahead run to Carlos Beltran in the seventh inning of the Astros' 6-5 win. Bagwell was the next batter in the seventh inning, and the righty zigged a 3-2 pitch over his head.

Taveaz and Bagwell shouted at each other, and plate umpire Mike Winters warned both teams.

When the inning ended, Taveaz slammed his glove on the dugout roof and broke his hand when he punched the bullpen. His antics were replayed on the Minute Maid Park scoreboard in-between innings, and the Astros later apologized to the Cardinals for showing it.

Taveaz's hand was put in a soft, plastic splint with his last two fingers immobilized before Game 5 Monday. The splint was off when Taveaz walked back the dugout to the bullpen in the middle innings, and he did not pitch in Houston's 3-0 win.

Taveaz was 7-4 with four saves and a 2.38 ERA in 77 games during the regular season. He is 1-1 with a 3.38 ERA in five games during this postseason.

Later this season, Taveaz was suspended for 10 games for supplying foreign assistance to a ball. The penalty was later cut to eight games.

In 2003, he drew a three-game suspension for fighting during a brawl while with Pittsburgh.

In spring training with the Cubs in 2001, he was suspended for three games after a flying kick at the Giants' Russ Davis. Later that year, the Cubs fined him for making anti-gay remarks about San Francisco fans.

XM, MLB reach \$650 million deal

NEW YORK — XM Satellite Radio will carry major league baseball games under a \$650 million, 11-year deal announced Wednesday, the latest move in a costly race with rival Sirius Satellite Radio to sign personalities and sports leagues as a way of winning customers.

Starting with 2005 preseason play, XM will broadcast every major league game live.

XM also said its new Major League Baseball Channel will broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The channel will feature new content and rebroadcasts of classic baseball games.

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Russians appeal Hamilton's gold

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Russian Olympic Committee has filed an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport seeking to strip American cyclist Tyler Hamilton of his Olympic time-trial gold medal and give it to Vyacheslav Ekmov because of a doping controversy.

A committee statement said the appeal was filed with the Lausanne, Switzerland-based court.

"The ROC insists on the disqualification of Hamilton," the statement said.

Hamilton edged Ekmov in the Athens Olympics in August.

An initial doping test led to suspicions Hamilton had used a blood transfusion to boost his endurance. But the International Olympic Committee abandoned its probe in September because the American's backup specimen mistakenly was frozen and there weren't enough red blood cells left to analyze.

Hamilton kept his medal because an athlete is considered guilty of doping only when both samples come back positive.

USOC fights to keep relay gold

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Olympic Committee is contesting an international ruling which could cost Michael Johnson and the rest of the U.S. 1,600-meter relay team their gold medals from the Sydney Olympics.

The USOC has filed an appeal to sports' highest court challenging a recommendation by track and field's world governing body to disqualify the entire squad for a doping scandal involving team member Jerome Young.

The petition was lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport

in Lausanne, Switzerland, by the USOC and five team members — Johnson, twins Alvin and Caborn Harrison, Antonio Pettigrew and Jerome Taylor. Young is not covered by the appeal.

The appeal is directed against the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and the International Olympic Committee. A hearing date hasn't been set.

Young tested positive for the steroid nandrolone in 1999, but was exonerated by a U.S. appeals panel in July 2000, avoiding a two-year ban.

He ran in the opening and semi-final rounds of the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, but not in the final. Johnson ran the anchor leg in the final for the fifth and last Olympic gold medal of his career. All six members of the relay squad received gold medals.

The IAAF ruled in July that the entire team should lose the medals because Jones should have been ineligible to compete.

Stripping of the medals is up to the IOC, which put off a decision in August, pending resolution of all appeals.

If the U.S. team loses its case, Nigeria will be upgraded to gold, Jamaica to silver and the Bahamas to bronze.

Young, the world 400-meter champion in 2003, tested positive for the endurance-boosting drug EPO in July at a meet in Paris. He faces a possible lifetime ban if found guilty of the second doping offense. That case is being handled by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

Both Harrison brothers have also been involved in doping cases.

On Tuesday, two-time Olympic gold medalist Alvin Harrison accepted a four-year suspension from the USADA for drug violations uncovered in the BALCO

case.

Calvin Harrison drew a positive test last year for modafinil, his second doping offense.

Report: Neuhelsh won't face NCAA penalties

SEATTLE — Former Washington coach Rick Neuhelsh, fired for gambling on basketball games, will not face NCAA penalties under a ruling to be released Wednesday, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported.

The newspaper did not cite a source for its copyright report on the ruling on Neuhelsh, nor did the report say what action would be taken regarding the school's beleaguered athletic program.

Robert M. Sulkin, Neuhelsh's lawyer, and NCAA and school officials would not comment to the newspaper, citing National Collegiate Athletic Association protocols.

NCAA policy bars discussion of such rulings until they are formally released, which in the Neuhelsh case was planned in a teleconference Wednesday.

A lack of penalties against Neuhelsh, 43, would likely make him a top contender to return to the Division I-A coaching ranks and boost his wrongful termination lawsuit against the university.

He landed in hot water with former Washington athletic director Barbara Hedges in early 2003 after denying that he had interviewed for head coach of the San Francisco 49ers, then admitting he had met with officials from the NFL club to discuss the job.

Hedges announced on June 12, 2003, that she was dropping Neuhelsh for participating in high-stakes off-campus betting pools with neighbors in the 2002 and 2003 NCAA basketball tournaments and for lying to NCAA investigators when they first asked him about it.

Classic: Game 7 a fitting finale for a couple heavyweights

CLASSIC, FROM BACK PAGE

They fought each other in the front office before the season began, the Red Sox signing Schilling with the idea of beating the Yankees, and the Yankees getting Alex Rodriguez after his trade to the Red Sox fell through. Boston tried to match New York's closer, Mariano Rivera, by signing Keith Foulke, and he came through with the save Tuesday night, running his pitch total to 100 over the past three games.

These teams fought on the field during the season in a brawl that triggered Boston's second-half resurgence, and anything short of a seventh game just wouldn't seem fitting.

Just so proud to be a part of this night," Schilling said. "We just did something that has never been done. It ain't over yet. ... I'm feeling pretty special about being a part of this club right now." No one is talking about curses or auras now, not after the way the Red Sox have been getting the bounces and the calls the past three games. In Game 7, two huge calls went their way, the first a reversal that gave Mark Bellhorn a home run in the fourth inning, the second a reversal that erased a New York run in the eighth when Rodriguez slapped the ball out of reliever Bronson Arroyo's glove on a tag near first. Replays showed both those unusual call changes, issued after power plays by the umpires, were correct.

Now the series comes down to a Game 7 crashout.

Neither the teams nor their fans had any idea what to expect after watching the three-game set in Boston.

Who could figure that the Yankees, after a rainout Friday night, would unleash a torrent of 22 hits in a 19-8 drubbing of the Red Sox



New York's Alex Rodriguez, above, plays his case after swatting the ball out of Bronson Arroyo's glove in a disputed play at first base on Tuesday night.

at Fenway Park in a Game 3 that set all kinds of records? At 4 hours, 20 minutes, it was the longest nine-inning postseason game in history with the most hits by both teams (37) and the most extra-base hits (20). It set championship series records for most runs by one team, most runs by both teams, most extra-base hits by one team (New York's 13) and most doubles by both teams (13).

Who would have thought that the Red Sox, three outs from a sweep Sunday in Game 4, would tie it in the ninth and go on to a 6-4, 12-inning victory on David Ortiz's walk-off homer in an even longer game — 5 hours, 2 minutes? That set unofficial records for ulcers, heartburn and quick recoveries by Red Sox fans by the time it ended early Monday.

Who could imagine that after the teams returned to the field 15½ hours later, they would produce an epic sequel that was longer still — 5 hours, 49 minutes — and that the Red Sox would again emerge from the clutches of defeat, down 4-2 in the eighth, to win 5-4 in the 14th on another walk-off by Ortiz? More ulcers, more heartburn, more thrills.

There was everything a fan could ask for in those first six games, and now there's more to come.

Steve Weinlein is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at stweinlein@ap.org.

Schilling's 'stopbook' start sets up an epic conclusion

Two close calls go Boston's way in Game 6 win

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It comes down to this: Game 7.

It seemed inevitable for so long, yet so implausible Sunday night: Yankees vs. Red Sox, winner take all.

With blood seeping through his sock, a grimace on his face and pride filling his heart, Curt Schilling shut down the Yankees and, just as he wanted — shut up \$5,000-plus New Yorkers.

Less than 48 hours after the Yankees were three outs from a sweep, Schilling's 4-2 victory Tuesday night tied the AL championship series 3-3 and put Boston within one victory of becoming the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 postseason deficit.

"We just did something that has never been done yet," Schilling said. "It ain't over yet. It ain't over by any stretch against this team and this organization."

Derek Lowe will start for Boston against TBA.

That's right, going into their most important game of the season, Yankees manager Joe Torre couldn't say who will take the mound. While Kevin Brown is the most likely guess, Javier Vazquez is in the mix, and Orlando Hernandez and Mike Mussina could be coming in out of the bullpen.

"We've got to play better for one game, that's the bottom line," Yankees captain Derek Jeter said. "Their team has responded. We're going to find out about our team tomorrow night."

With the benefit of two reversed calls by umpires, the Red Sox are one win from getting back to the World Series for the first time since 1986 and earning another chance to reverse The Curse.

Pitching on a dislocated ankle tendon held down by three sutures put in the day before, Schilling gave up one run and four hits in seven innings.

"When I saw blood dripping through the sock and the givings



Curt Schilling's dislocated ankle tendon was held in place by three sutures put in the day before Game 6. The stitches held during Schilling's seven-inning outing.

us seven innings in Yankee Stadium, that was storybook," Boston first baseman Kevin Millar said.

The Yankees, who rallied from a 5-2, eighth-inning deficit in Game 7 last year and won 6-5 on Aaron Boone's homer off Tim Lincecum in the 11th, were ahead 4-3 in the ninth inning of Game 4 Sunday night at Fenway Park only to lose in the 12th.

They led Game 5 in the eighth Monday, then lost that one, too, another contest that lasted 14 innings and almost 6 hours.

Of the 25 previous major league teams that fell behind 3-0 in a best-of-seven series, none had forced Game 7.

Schilling, who accepted a trade to the Red Sox last fall for the express purpose of beating the Yankees, took a three-hit shutout into the seventh before allowing Bernie Williams' solo homer.

Last week, he seemed done for the season. The tendon was sutured Monday, but he couldn't wear a special high-top shoe because it put too much pressure on the area. As soon as he left the game Tuesday night, the stitches were removed.

"This training staff was just dead for me over the last four, five, six days," he said. "To avoid having it popping in and out, they sutured the skin down to something in between the two tendons to keep the tendon out. It worked."

The finale will be the 52nd meeting of the teams since the start of the 2003 season.

"All those games and it's down to one," Boston reliever Mike Timlin said. "We could probably have done this in spring training and saved the trouble."

While the ghosts of Yankees

past usually turn games for New York in the Bronx, Boston got the breaks on a cold, misty night.

After Orlando Cabrera's RBI single off Jon Lieber in the fourth, Mark Bellhorn hit a ball over the left-field wall that was at first ruled a ground-rule double by left-field umpire Jim Joyce because it was correctly changed to a three-run homer that made it 4-0. The ball hit a fan in the chest, and the other five umpires knew it.

"I kind of surprised myself that it went out," said Bellhorn, who had been in a 4-for-32 postseason slump.

In the eighth, after Miguel Cairo's double and Jeter's RBI single off Bronson Arroyo pulled the Yankees to 4-2, Alex Rodriguez hit a ball between the mound and first base. Arroyo picked it up and ran toward first, where just before the base the striding A-Rod slapped the ball away.

Jeter scored as the ball bounced down the right-field line. After Boston manager Terry Francona came out to argue, the umpires huddled, discussed the play, then called Rodriguez out for interference and sent Jeter back to first.

Rodriguez raised both hands and put them on his helmet, screaming about the reversal.

"I know that line belongs to me and he was coming at me," he said. "Once I reached out and tried to knock the ball, the call went against me. I should have just run over him."

Millar called Rodriguez "unprofessional."

"That's against the rules," Millar said. "If you want to play football, strap on some pads and go play for the Green Bay Packers." The game was held for 10 minutes while Torre argued and fans tossed debris on the field. Gary Sheffield then fouled out, ending the inning.

After Cabrera was ruled safe at first base in the ninth, preventing the Yankees from completing a double play, public address announcer Bob Sheppard made his second announcement for fans to be orderly. Helmeted police then came on the field and knelted in front territory along the stands on both the left- and right-field sides in the top of the ninth.

Keith Foulke, who pitched five innings in Game 7, struck out two, got the last three outs, striking out Tony Clark with two on to end it.



New York's Alex Rodriguez (13) knocks the ball out of the glove of Boston Red Sox pitcher Bronson Arroyo, center, as first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz looks on during the eighth inning of Game 6 on Tuesday. Rodriguez, called out for interference on the play, was batting with one out and Derek Jeter at first base.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

American League
Tuesday, Oct. 12
New York 10, Boston 7
Wednesday, Oct. 13
New York 5, Boston 1
Friday, Oct. 15
New York at Boston, game 1
Saturday, Oct. 16
New York 10, Boston 8
Sunday, Oct. 17
Boston 6, New York 4, 12 innings
Monday, Oct. 18
Boston 5, New York 4, 14 innings
Tuesday, Oct. 19
Boston 4, New York 2, series tied 3-3
Wednesday, Oct. 20
Boston (Lowe 14-1) at New York (Brown 10-6) or Vazquez 14-10

National League
Wednesday, Oct. 13
St. Louis 10, Houston 7
Thursday, Oct. 14
St. Louis 6, Houston 4
Saturday, Oct. 16
Houston 5, St. Louis 2
Sunday, Oct. 17
Houston 6, St. Louis 5
Monday, Oct. 18
Houston 3, St. Louis 0, Houston leads series 2-2

Wednesday, Oct. 20
Houston (Munro 4-7) at St. Louis (Morris 15-10)

Thursday, Oct. 21
Houston (Clemens 18-4) at St. Louis (Suppan 16-9), if necessary

WORLD SERIES
Saturday, Oct. 23
National League at American League

Sunday, Oct. 24
NL at AL

Tuesday, Oct. 26
AL at NL

Wednesday, Oct. 27
AL at NL

THURSDAY, OCT. 28

AL NL, if necessary
Saturday, Oct. 30
NL AL, if necessary

Sunday, Oct. 31
NL AL, if necessary

Tuesday

Red Sox 4, Yankees 2

BOSTON
Damon cf 5 0 1 0
Muller lf 4 0 0 0
Ortiz rf 4 0 0 0
Dorfr dh 4 0 0 0
Nixon 3b 3 0 0 0
Karpis 1b 1 0 1 0
Miller 2b 3 0 0 0
Mentkiewicz 1b 4 0 0 0
Ortiz 3b 4 1 2 0
Schilling 5 1 1 0
Bease 2b 0 0 0 0

Boston 300 411 4 0
Yankees 000 400-4

IP—New York 2, LOB—Boston 7, New York 5, St. Louis 13

horns (3), Billings (2), Cabrera (3)

IP H R ER BB SO

Boston Schilling W-1 7 4 1 0 1 0 4

Arroyo 1 1 1 1 0 0 2 2

Foulke S-1 1 0 0 0 2 2

New York Heredia L-1 7 4 0 4 0 2

Quintanilla 7 1 0 0 0 0 0

Sturtz 2 2 0 0 0 0 0

HBP—by Lieber (Muller), WP—Lieber, Umpires—Home, Joe Wicks; 1B, Randy

Marquez; 2B, Jeff Nelson; 3B, John Hirschbeck; Left, Jim Joyce; Right, Jeff Kellogg

T-3:56, A-56, L28 (57:47B)

Clemens will pitch again, but not Game 6

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Roger Clemens will get another chance to pitch this season. Whether it comes in the NL championship series or in the World Series, that might depend on Pete Munro.

With the Houston Astros leading St. Louis 3-2, manager Phil Garner picked Munro to start Game 6 Wednesday against the Cardinals.

"There are going to be a lot of people saying do the opposite, start Roger," Garner said Tuesday. "But what I feel in my gut is what I have to do."

Garner considered the options — the Rocket on three days' rest vs. a journeyman hit hard last week — and made his choice. Munro was told on the team's afternoon flight to St. Louis.

"I guess I was kind of overwhelmed," Munro said. "I'm sure that they'd rather face me than Roger. I mean, I'd rather face me than Roger."

Instead, Clemens will be held back for a possible Game 7 Tuesday night. Or maybe a start in the World Series opener Saturday night in either Boston or New York.

Garner could have lined up Clemens and Roy Oswalt to face the Cardinals, bringing both back early in hopes of putting Houston into its first World Series.

But the stats aren't good: Since five-man rotations became popular, pitchers on three days' rest lose about three times more than they win in the postseason.

During the first round against Atlanta, Clemens pitched on three days' rest for the first time since April 11, 2002. He hung in for five innings, allowing two runs.

"I think it's false to assume that just because you're going to bring Roger back that you're sure to win," Garner said. "Because I'm starting Pete doesn't mean we're giving this game away."

After losing three straight games, the Cardinals assumed they'd be facing Clemens.

■ **Game 6 of the NLCS between Houston and St. Louis ended too late to be included in this edition.**

"I saw some controversy in the paper, but I kind of think he'll pitch," third baseman Scott Rolen said earlier Tuesday. "I think we all think he'll pitch and then we'll have Oswalt in Game 7, hopefully."

Added Game 6 starter Matt Morris: "Obviously, our position players might rather face Pete Munro rather than a Roger Clemens. We know his capabilities. Although, taking nothing away from Pete."

A day before, the 42-year-old Clemens said he was set. He won Game 3, going seven innings.

"I'll be ready to go whenever he wants to hand me the ball," he said.

Coming off one of the best and most unlikely pitching duels in playoff history, it was hard to know what to expect. The teams totaled just four hits — a postseason record — on Monday night, with Brandon Backe and the Astros beating Woody Williams and the Cardinals 3-0.

Jeff Kent's three-run homer off Jason Iiringhausen in the ninth inning won that matchup at Minute Maid Park. The clubs have combined for 20 home runs so far, three off the NLCS record set last year by Florida and the Cubs.

"We're as likely to have a 10-8 game as a 2-1 game," Garner said.

It was right in the middle — 6-4, St. Louis — when Morris and Munro matched up in Game 2. Each gave up three runs and six hits, with Munro lasting 4-2-3 innings and Morris going five.

Munro started the season at Triple-A for Minnesota, was signed by Houston in June and demoted to the minors. He went 4-7 with a 5.15 ERA for the Astros, and has a 13-19 career mark in the majors.

"I've been underestimated my



Astros manager Phil Garner, left, talks with Peter Munro, Houston's scheduled starter for Game 6 in St. Louis.

whole life, when it comes to baseball," Munro said. "That they went with me is amazing to me."

"I think in any other circumstance, if Roger had four days off, he'd definitely be the guy to take the bump. This isn't a must-win. I think they wanted to give Roger an extra day. If we'd lost last night, I guess they'd go with Roger."

Garner said he weighed all sorts of factors for a while.

"I thought about it for quite a bit. The process was a day or two. And then you sit around and you think a little bit more," he said. "I think you can overthink it, you can see all kinds of scenarios."

"Asking Roger to come back on short days two of three starts, I'm

not sure if that's the right move. All things considered, I think it's best to let him pitch on his fifth day."

The Cardinals aren't looking forward to Game 7, not yet. After leading the majors with 105 victories, the NL Central champions will go to a game at a time against the wild-card Astros.

"Well, we actually practiced this game over six months," manager Tony La Russa said. "A lot of times when we are in a series, we would tell ourselves we're in the seventh game of the World Series."

"A lot of times if you don't win a bunch of series, you don't get to October. So we put the must-win situation on ourselves a bunch of times."



Wednesday, Oct. 13
St. Louis 16, Houston 10
Thursday, Oct. 14
St. Louis 6, Houston 4
Friday, Oct. 15
Houston 5, St. Louis 2
Saturday, Oct. 16
Houston 6, St. Louis 9
Sunday, Oct. 17
Houston 3, St. Louis 9, Houston leads series 3-2
Wednesday, Oct. 20
Houston (Munro 4-7) at St. Louis (Morris 15-19)
Thursday, Oct. 21
Houston (Clemens 15-4) at St. Louis (Suppan 16-9), if necessary



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Top Scores for Week 6

208	M.Will01 dolphins	230th MP Co
208	BarbM1971	Tompkins Barracks
206	sgtsto	Alpha Co 2-7 CAV
206	grobe	DODDS
206	57Sporty	Fort Hood, TX
206	cfishe	159th med co
204	138BALLER	MCAS FULTONMA
204	brown_mnm425	Schweinfurt
204	Moms Team	Spandahlm Air Base
202	katywompus	ANDERSEN AFB

Best Overall Scores

1086	giants#1	hbc 2/37 ar
1046	Chickysnow	726 AMS
1038	Jaguar One	DOODS
1030	Nanoak	Yokota AB
1026	habusaki	friedburg
1022	james_a_morgan	NCTAMS EURCENT
1022	packers97	FISC
1020	STEELFROGWOOD	MAG-12
1018	Dick	Camp Zama
1018	Razorbacks	86 mxg/qa

See websites for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

SPORTS

With Owens on board,
McNabb is reaching
new heights, Page 27



KRT

Boston's Bill Mueller tries in vain to catch a foul pop on Tuesday at Yankee Stadium. After winning Game 6, the Red Sox became the first team in 26 playoff series to force Game 7 after losing the first three games. Six of the past nine LCS Game 7s have been won by the home team.

Spellbinding series deserves climactic finish

NEW YORK — It's a short story transformed into a great American League novel, a championship series that is setting records by the inning and the hour.

Fans from Beantown to the Bronx, Sox Nation all over the map and Yankeealand around the world are caught up in an exhausting, feverish drama that is extraordinary even by the abnormal standards of this long, passion-

ate rivalry. This ALCS between the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox has heroics and heartbreaks, arguments and reversed calls, diving catches and basepath blunders, hot bats and bizarre slumps, rainy days and endless nights.

A classic series deserves a classic finish. And now it has Game 7, seemingly inevitable from the start, ridiculously farfetched a few days ago when the Yankees led three games to none and Red Sox ace Curt Schilling appeared done with a surgery-impending ankle tendon tear.

Schilling turned Game 6 on Tuesday night into a stage to put on one of the gutsiest performances of his — or anyone else's — ca-



AP

New York Yankees Enrique Wilson, left, Alex Rodriguez, center, and Derek Jeter contemplate their team's third consecutive loss to Boston.



AP

Boston reliever Keith Foulke pitched a scoreless ninth inning on Tuesday to preserve a 4-2 victory that tied the ALCS 3-3.



KRT

New York starter Jon Lieber, who gave up four runs in 7 1/3 innings in Game 6, was done in by Mark Bellhorn's three-run homer.

reer after doctors found a way to hold his burn right ankle together with a little creative surgery. Blood seeping through his sock from the stitches that kept his tendon from popping in and out, he bore down between winces of pain, cranked his fastball up to 95 mph and did what he couldn't do in Game 1.

Schilling got shelled in that opener, his ankle too weak to allow him to push hard of the rubber, but he came back with a vengeance to lead the Red Sox to a 4-2 victory and gave them a chance to reach the World Series. He didn't wear the rush-order boot that was made for him, but he brought an extra level of hope and inspiration to a team already playing on fumes after two unreal comebacks.

"You can talk all you want about that [ankle] area, but his heart is so big," Boston manager Terry Francona said. Schilling attributed his performance to his faith, and the work of his doctor and trainer, rather than his tolerance for pain.

"I prayed as hard as I could," he said. "I didn't pray to get a win or to make great pitches. I just prayed for the strength to go out there tonight and compete, and He gave me that. I can't explain to you what a feeling it was to be out there and to feel what I felt."

These two teams had the best records in the American League.

SEE CLASSIC ON PAGE 30



Schilling's heroic pitching and a few close calls boost Sox in Game 6

Page 30



Astros decide to hold Clemens until Game 7 or World Series

Page 31



Ex-Bucsbats holdout McCordell traded to Chargers; Cowboys, Browns swap WRs

Page 26